

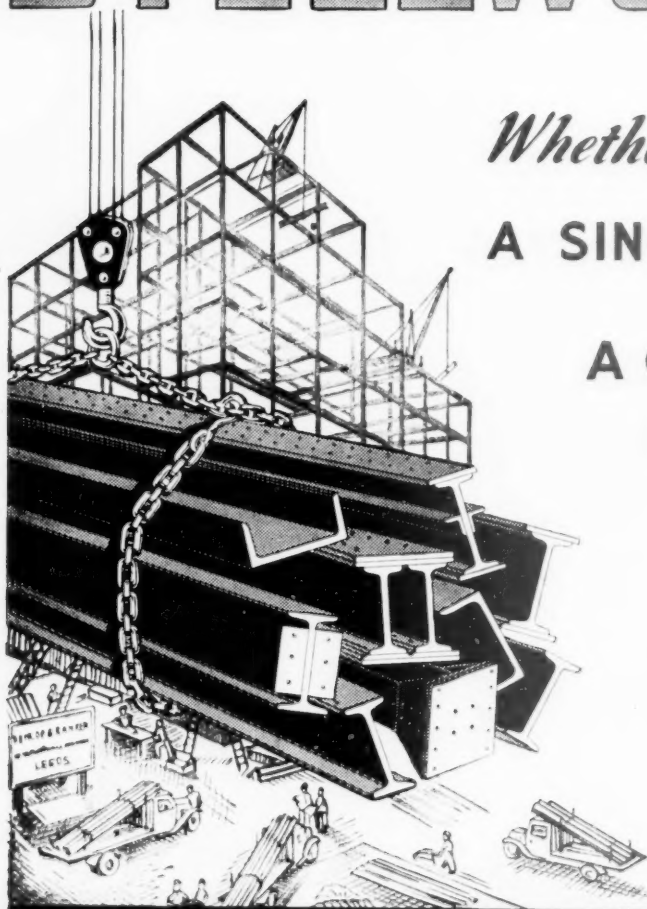
THE
ARCHITECT
& BUILDING NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

- FLATS FOR THE CITY OF YORK
- FLATS AT BONHAM ROAD, LAMBETH

DECEMBER 18, 1952 · VOL. 202 · NO. 4383 · ONE SHILLING WEEKLY

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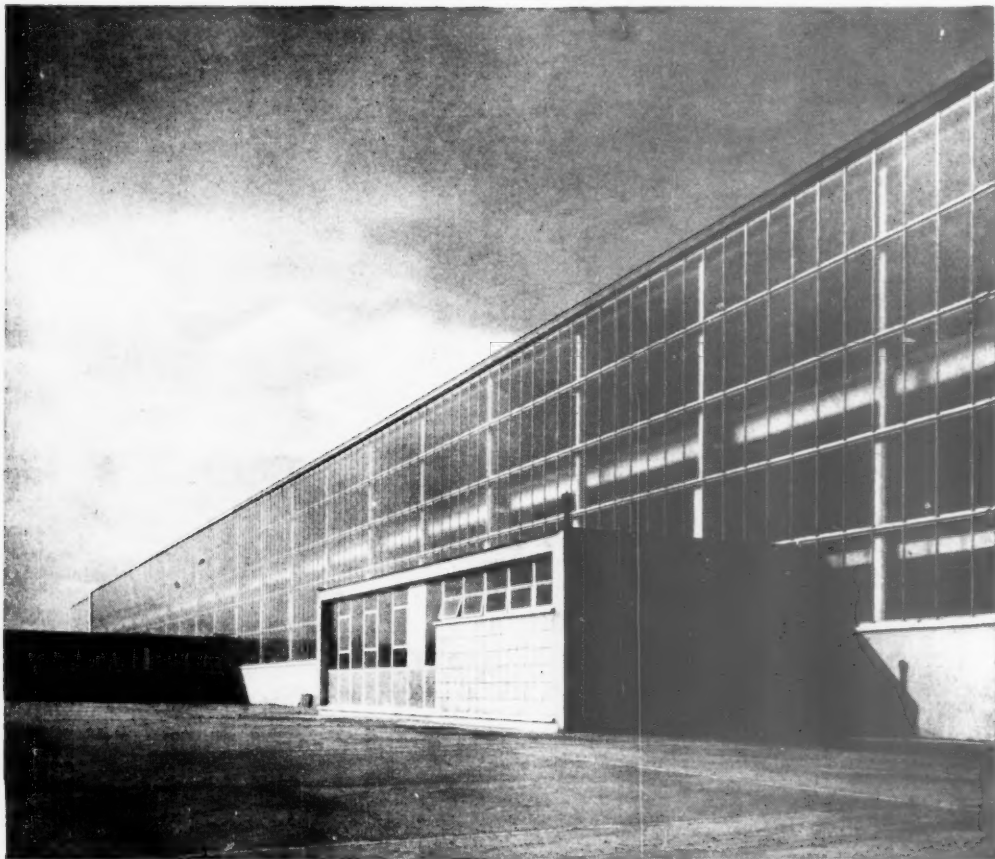
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FULL DAYLIGHT FOR FACTORY OPERATIVES

In both the designs featured — the Coras Iompair Eireann factory in Inchicore, Dublin, and the new steel furniture warehouse for Joseph Sankey & Sons in Wellington, Shropshire — the architects faced the problem of providing ceiling to floor daylight without impairing structural strength and graceful design. Each architect specified Aluminex Patent Glazing and the results have proved how completely successful Aluminex is in this kind of construction. Its slim bars and horizontal weathering members give the buildings clean simple lines and reduce light obstructions to an absolute minimum, giving the factory operatives full daylight for working.

Aluminex at Inchicore

The architect, Michael Scott, wished to provide full daylight within this factory, and at the same time to protect concrete cased structural members from the effects of weather. This was achieved by an Aluminex glass wall 254ft. long x 22ft. high holding 1 rough cast glass and attached to the outer faces of the stanchions. In addition to the advantages of daylight

and weather protection, this glass wall reveals the simple and impressive structural framework of the building.

Continuous Opening Lights with Positive Action

An interesting aspect of the 390 foot glass wall in Joseph Sankey & Sons' factory at Wellington is the use of opening lights 100 feet long (Aluminex continuous opening lights can be made of indefinite length

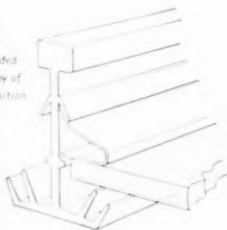
but are generally limited to 200 feet both for convenience and by gear limitations). The moving frame is hung on a continuous hinge running the full length of the light that cannot bind or warp (see diagram). The full 100 feet rises like a single pane. The lights are operated from a few remote control points by Teleflex gearing. This threaded cable system exerts a steady even pressure all along the light so that the hundredth foot gets the same pressure as the first foot. The light will stay steadily open at any desired position from 1° to 18° so that ventilation can be quickly and accurately controlled.

Coras Iompair — Eireann, Inchicore, Dublin.
Architect: MICHAEL SCOTT, F.R.I.A.I.
Engineers: JOSE ARUP & PARTNERS.
Contractors: MESSRS. G. & J. CRAMPTON LTD., Dublin.

The Aluminex Patent Glazing System

A word about the Aluminex Patent Glazing system (see diagram). The glazing bar is an example of good functional design. Its main web consists of a strengthening ridge at the top, with ribs on each side

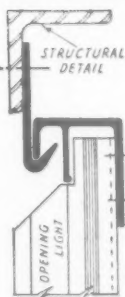
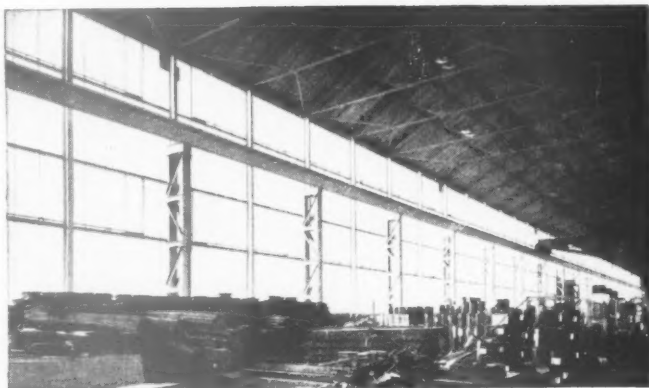
This Aluminex patent glazing bar is of extruded aluminium alloy of special composition. Here is seen one glazing cover strip holding a pane of glass in position on the bar.



to hold a continuous cover strip. Internal condensation is carried outside the building by the integrated channels in the bar.

The continuous aluminium cover strip is scientifically profiled to fit between the rib of the glazing bar and the surface of the glass. It fits tightly but gives sufficiently in response to thermal movements to make a firm and safe glass grip in all conditions.

Economy is a strong factor in the ever increasing popularity of Aluminex.



This drawing shows the design of the continuous hinge used on the Aluminex opening lights. The head weathering makes flashings unnecessary.

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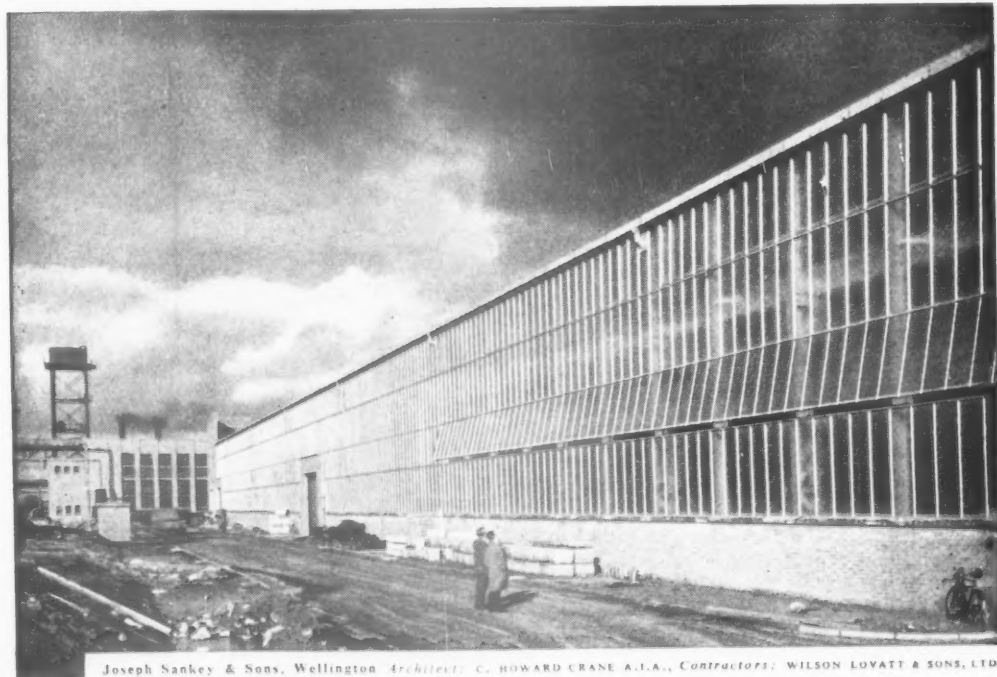
be replaced quickly and without difficulty.

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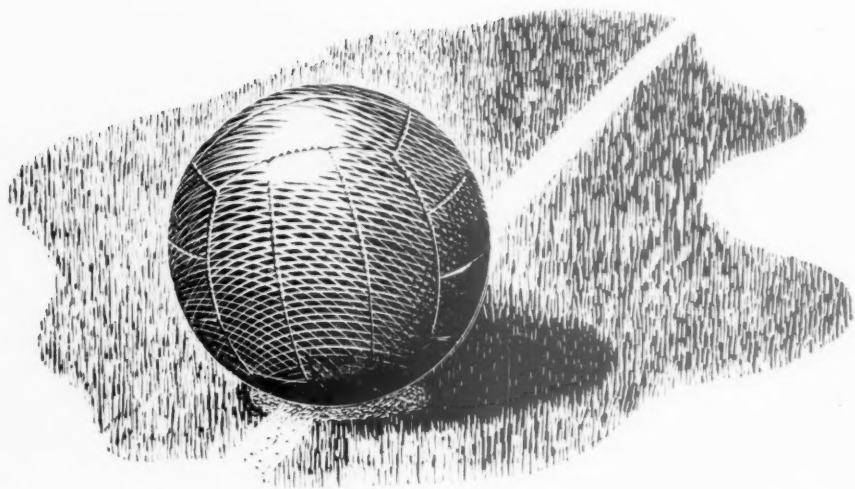


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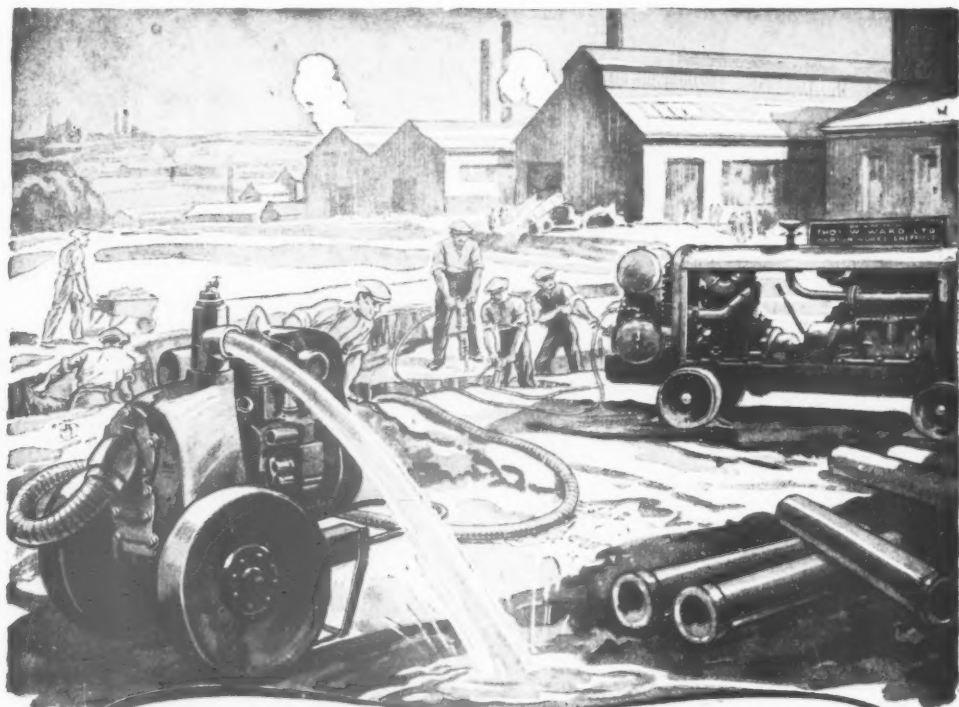
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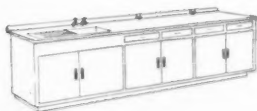


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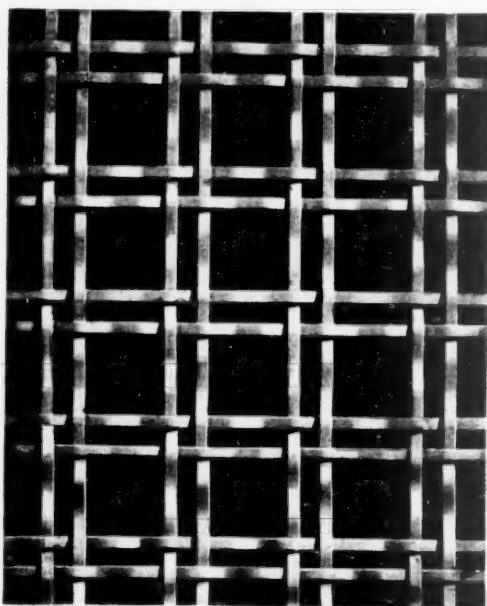
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Architects: GOLLINS, MELVIN, WARD & PARTNERS

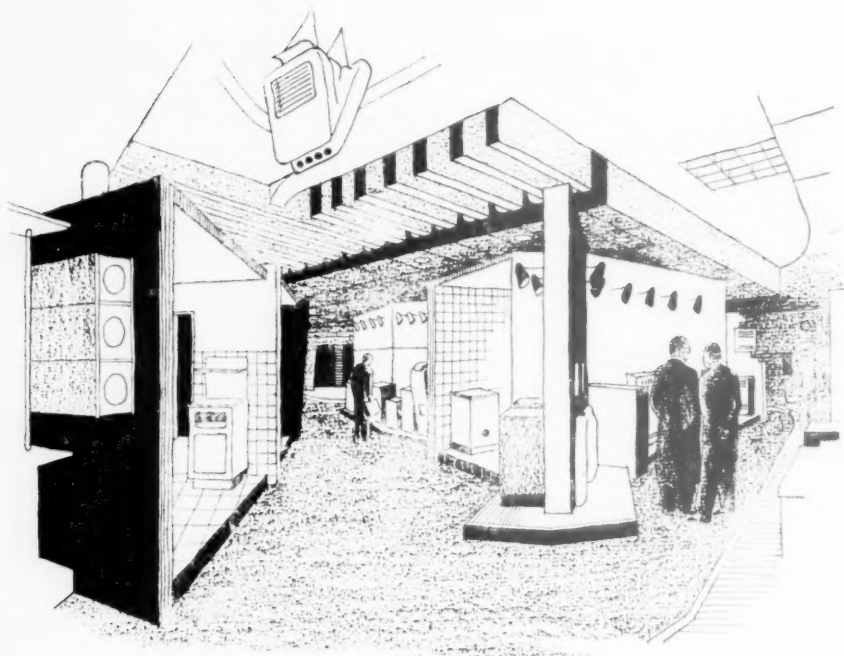
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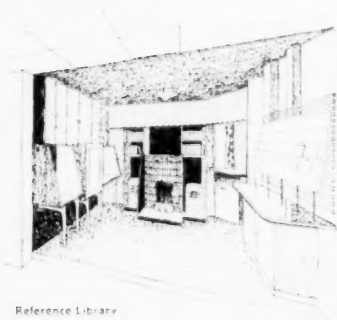
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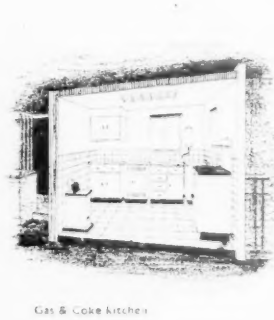


Gas in the design for living

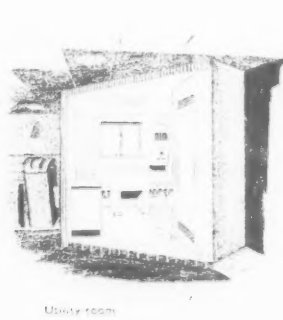
The new enlarged gas and coke exhibit at the London Building Centre is now open. In it visitors will find the latest information on the use of gas and coke, mainly for domestic, but also for commercial purposes. Also shown are approved methods of gas and coke installation in contemporary housing. There is a sectional display of the latest gas and coke equipment, together with examples of commercial appliances. A technical representative is available to answer queries and there is a comprehensive reference library. Visits from individuals or parties are welcomed. (prior notice of a visit from an organised party will be appreciated).



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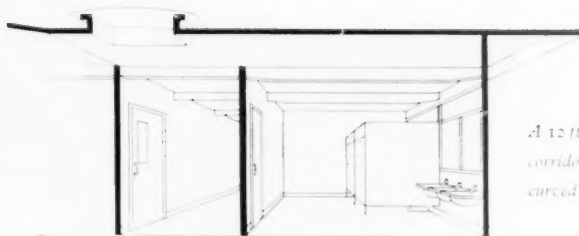
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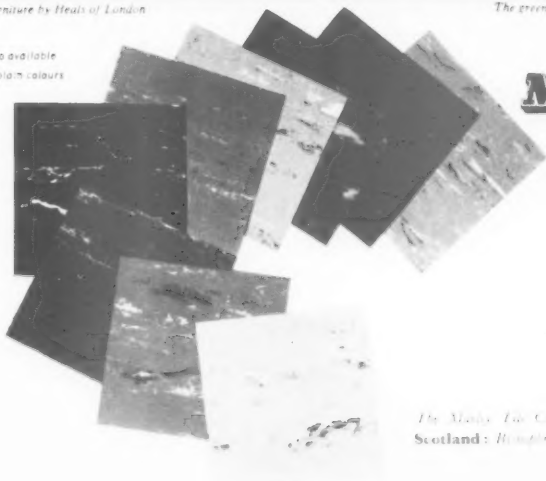
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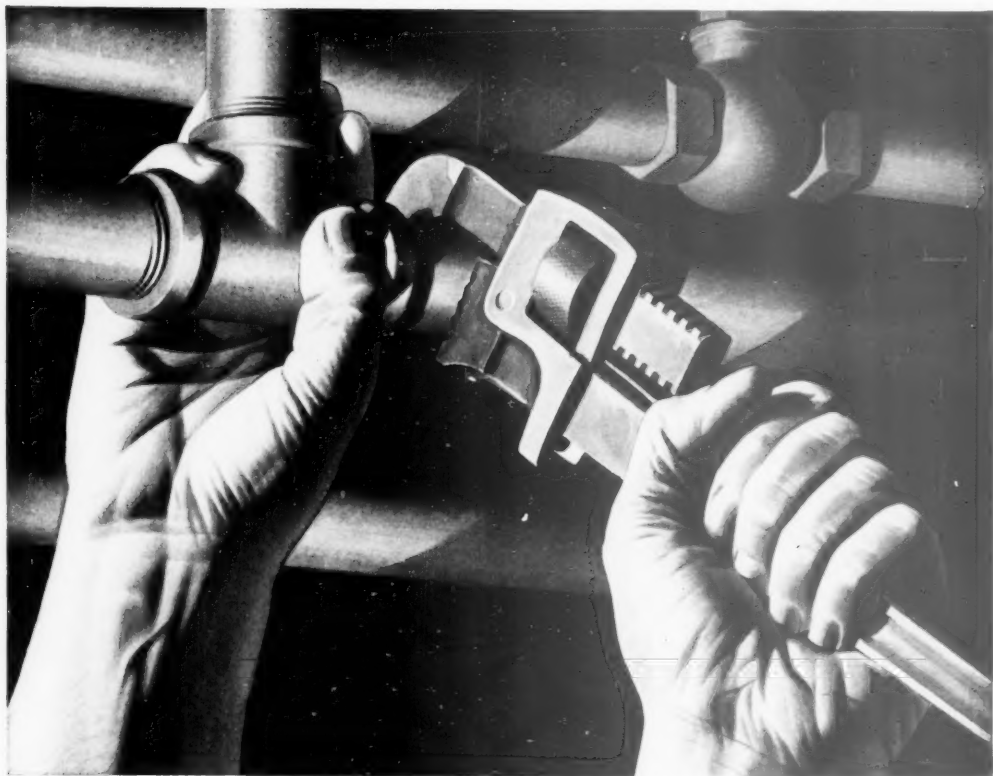


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MODULAR CO-ORDINATION

THE subject of modular co-ordination to be used in designing and erecting buildings has received further emphasis this week by the delivery of the first Alfred Bosson Lecture to the Royal Society of Arts. These lectures have been inaugurated for the study of and contributions to "cheaper building"; it is, therefore, symptomatic of the times that the first of the series should be devoted by its author, Mr. Hartland Thomas, to modular co-ordination as one of the factors that can contribute to the lowering of building costs.

The lecturer proceeded by outlining the past history of this modular move towards rationalization in building and by detailing what is being done by a number of industrial undertakings mainly in the field of prefabrication. The lecture and discussion will appear fully in the Journal of the R.S.A.; we wish it were possible to give it in full, but shortness of space forbids; even so we feel we must comment on some of the issues, even within the confines of a short leading article.

Historically—it is fairly recent history—we feel Mr. Hartland Thomas did not quite give full credit to the long and close study of the subject by the Committee set-up by the British Standards Institution and which culminated in a first report* which, reticent as it was, seems likely to result in considerable progress in the future and which has, we think, influenced general industrial and professional opinions much more than is even yet realized.

The essential difference between the R.I.B.A. Study Group and the B.S.I. Committee, the works of which Mr. Hartland Thomas lumped together in his historical sketch, was that the Study Group was composed of professional investigators, who, of necessity, looked at the subject mainly from a design point of view and had, also by necessity, to bear in mind the innate prejudice of architects against

external control of design by standards of any sort. On the other hand, the B.S.I. Committee was composed not only of architects, surveyors and engineers (a wider professional coverage) but of representatives of the builders, the operatives, the various associations of manufacturers of components and materials and of representatives of the Ministries most connected with building. The very fact that a committee with such heterogeneous interests was able to arrive at anything like an agreed report augurs well for further investigation.

Modular Co-ordination is, naturally, in the first place a designer's assistant, if only because it can provide a system to which may be referred all existing and all new standards for components and materials. Standards as they now exist are insufficiently co-ordinated because there is no basic reference. There is, we feel, too much general assumption that modular co-ordination means an adherence to a universal grid, rigid and pre-determinate, a progression by tram-like methods rather than those of the aeroplane. Modular co-ordination does mean a discipline for all parties in building, but that need not mean, as the past has proved, that aesthetics will be subjected to the indignities of the strait-jacket. The typewriter has not stopped or curtailed literary inspiration; it is merely a sort of modular co-ordinator.

It should be realized that modular co-ordination is not merely a tool for the production of prefabricated buildings and parts of buildings and that it is not just a stop-gap idea for boosting exports. Too much was said on these lines at the R.S.A. meeting, especially by those manufacturing interests present and who contributed to the discussion.

We have no agreed system of modular co-ordination in this country yet. Certain tentative suggestions have been made for planning grids and preferred sizes; these have been arrived at by experience and common sense and also by studying mistakes already made by operations in the field and by observing

* *Modular Co-ordination*—B.S. 1708:1951—2s. 6d. post free.

the tendencies of foreign countries to change from small modular increments in the 4in. and 10 cm. range to something much larger and more normally related to human-use dimensions in ranges which are nearer to the 3 feet or 1 metre ranges. It may be well, therefore, that this country has not, so far, jumped off the deep-end and committed itself to modules that have accrued from mere guesswork and first thoughts.

The whole matter of modular co-ordination involves so many factors and presages so great a change of outlook for designers and industrialists alike that it is important to realize that whatever is ultimately arrived at and agreed upon, whether it be a simple square or cubic grid or a series of preferred but strictly progression-related sizes and governors, whatever are found to be international requirements, the present necessity is intensive research covering very extensive fields.

Such research will be concerned with the drawing office, the laboratory, the building site and the factory and will, of necessity, be costly. Above all, if it goes forward, it must be impartial and scientific; willing and able to investigate and to stand up to all the criticisms, wails and complaints of designers "who want to be free" and manufacturers who fear change or makers of machine-tools who cry havoc and economics. It will be a long-term business; any practical change-over from the present methods of empirical chaos to systems of related discipline will take many years, it cannot be sudden and any such change must be planned ahead and be equally the subject of study and research.

Mr. Hartland Thomas's final suggestion was that a private modular society should be set-out to be a sort of adjudicator on all matters connected with modular co-ordination. By all means; this country has always progressed by the method of small tails to wag great dogs; but even so, we think it should be realized that this subject is likely to be too large and all-embracing to be dealt with in this manner. It is not something for private money only, it is essentially a subject for the fullest co-operation between the Government, all types of industry and the relevant professions all along the long road of research and change that stretches ahead. No organization should be excluded or the resources for research at present possessed by the B.S.I., the B.R.S., the N.P.L. and a number of other official and semi-official bodies be even partially excluded by the compromise of setting-up a private society acting "as a referee" with only a limited membership which supplies its money. If an adjudicator or referee is needed there will have to be general acceptance of such a body or person; what is more important is that there shall be general agreement as to the principles and methods to be adopted as the results of unbiased research.

Before embarking on modular co-ordination as a national principle in building, this country must be certain that what is set-up is the *right* conception and one that will stand the test of time and yet be flexible enough to do so. Although a private society may be able to help it could not face, nor must it hinder, the vast field of investigation necessary to ensure such a certainty.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

WORK OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART

You should see the exhibition of painting, sculpture and "graphic art" at the R.W.S. galleries in Conduit Street. I think that the talent of the painters is outstanding although almost all of them seem to take the gloomiest possible view of life. The general appearance of the ground floor gallery is sombre and almost completely lacking in bright colours. I asked Mr. Robin Darwin why this was, and was told that the best pictures had been selected and it so happened that they were all of the less bright colours. I noticed that a number had been sold less than two hours after the private view opened. Indeed, I bought one myself and had the pleasure of seeing the Principal himself stick the red star on it. Many of the exhibitors and their instructors were also on show. On the whole they matched the sombreness of their paintings. I did not think that the sculpture was very good. The upstairs gallery was much brighter and covered lithography, etching, book illustration and posters in various media. The R.C.A. reached an extraordinary high stan-

dard in these departments and encourages great hopes for the future of "commercial art" book illustration in this country.

I understand that there was nothing sombre about the R.C.A. end-of-term dance which was judged the best dance for at least ten years anywhere by several of the people who went. Unfortunately it clashed with the A.B.S. Ball so that many people were unable to complete the double.

THE A.B.S. BALL

There is no doubt that this year's A.B.S. Ball held as usual at the Dorchester was the best ever. To begin with over seven hundred tickets were sold and this meant that all the available space was filled to capacity and the dance floor to rather more than capacity. The increased time allotted to dancing was much appreciated. Announcements were short and to the point and the draw was dealt with in the shortest possible time. Charming girl students were much in evidence selling tickets for things and auctioning the pretty table decorations which they and

their undoubtedly handsome partners had spent much time and patience in making. These students came from the A.A. and Hammersmith Schools. A large and voluble magician entertained after supper—I heard someone say that he had done nothing spectacular such as sawing Mr. Spragg in half—otherwise the company danced until all too soon, as it seemed, the lights were dimmed and good-night music was being played by the band which was possibly the only thing in the evening's arrangements which was not excellent. Almost everyone was there and I noticed that there were several parties of twenty and over. It was also good to see that many manufacturers supported the Ball. Congratulations to Mr. Epril and his committee who once again shouldered the burden.

BUY YOUR OWN HOUSE

A slight stir has been caused in Wakefield by the announcement that tenants wanting to buy their aluminium prefabs are to be asked to pay £2,155. This is probably a good deal less than the actual cost of the buildings but I seem to remember something about their being temporary and only built to last ten years. Some of the houses must have been up seven years already. What happens if someone pays his two thousand-odd and the type is then condemned? Of course, it is most unlikely that the prefabs will ever be pulled down and we all know that huts put up for arsenal workers at Woolwich, for the first war, are still inhabited. When is a temporary building temporary?

HIGH PADDINGTON

Interest in Sergei Kadleigh's scheme has by no means died down. The *British Farmer* for Nov. 29 carries a strongly favourable article by Gerald Barry. He points out that such a scheme is very much in the farmers' interest, and draws attention to the need for proper development inside towns and the economic use of the many derelict sites to be found there.

I understand that Mr. Kadleigh has been invited to address the Royal Society of Arts on his scheme next March. He has already agreed to speak in Manchester and Coventry. The scheme has been commented upon in Egyptian, Italian, South African and Swedish papers. The *Financial Times*, in a special issue on farming, argues the same way as the *British Farmer*. Even the House of Lords has been told by a speaker that we should consider building upwards rather than outwards.

THE "FINANCIAL TIMES" AND ARCHITECTURE

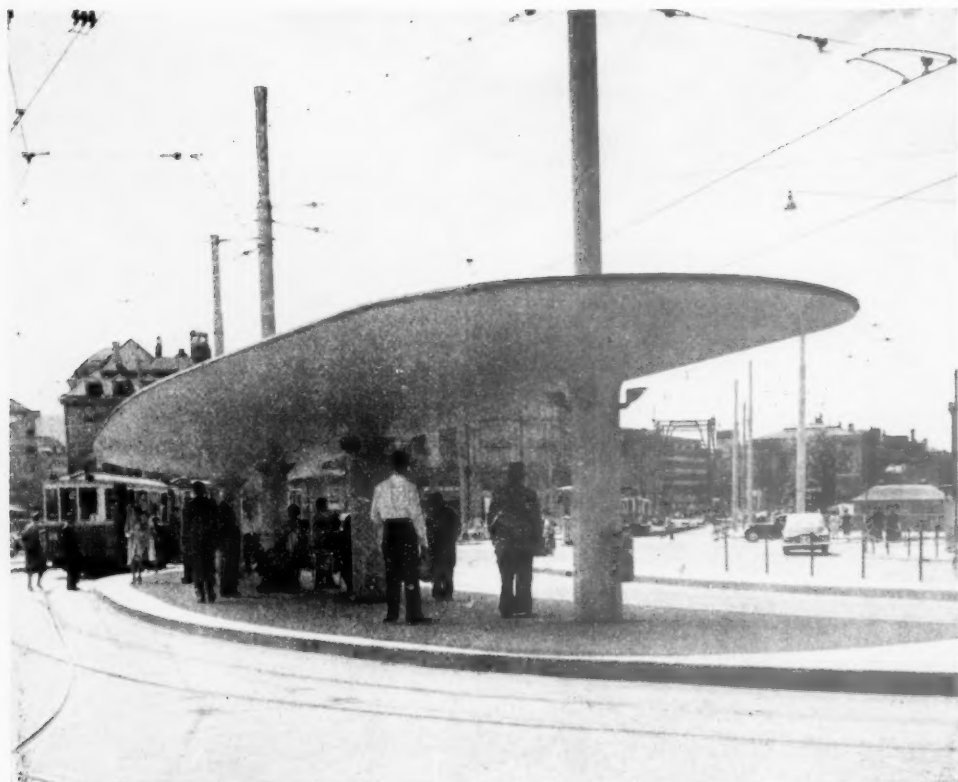
The nearest I ever get to reading the *Financial Times* is when I see it upside down in the hands of the city gent opposite me in the train. I have therefore only just discovered that it has for some considerable time been running a series of articles on architecture contributed by Mr. Trystan Edwards. This partly answers the question "What is Trystan Edwards doing in these days?" When I was a student every word he wrote or uttered was eagerly listened to and even learned by heart. To-day one hears very little of Mr. Edwards but he nearly always attends functions of the Architecture Club and is, I believe, very interested in the promotion of a new university in South Wales.



Photo REECE WINSTONE

Fluorescent lighting adapted to lamp standard in Bath.

Architecture has just appeared in another series in the *Financial Times* which deals with professions and their rewards. The article is aptly headed the "Hazards of Architecture" and is a model of sense and clarity. The writer makes it pretty plain that architecture is the poor relation of the other learned professions and thinks it might prove difficult to find any architect grossing over £20,000 a year with any regularity. I think it ought to. He points out the difficulties of the newly qualified and explains why so many go into salaried posts. Very few architects in private practice are considered to earn more than £2,500 and after listing the plum salaried jobs in



Photos: NORMAN WESTWOOD, A.R.I.B.A.

The high standard of design of tram shelters in Zurich is clearly illustrated in this example, which is situated on the road junction at the east end of the Station Bridge. Most of them are constructed of reinforced concrete with mushroom type columns supporting finely detailed canopies.

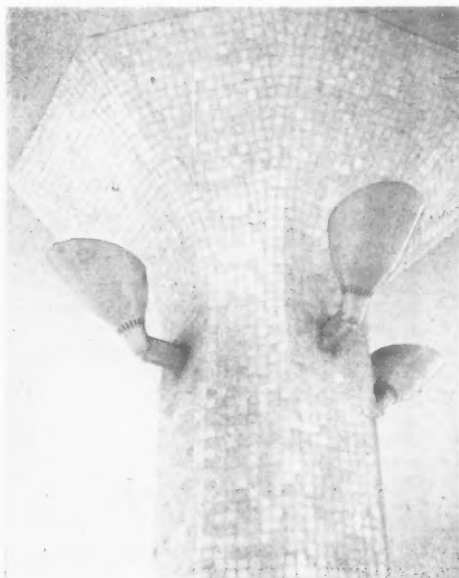
the profession the writer summarizes the situation by saying that architects do not expect to earn the larger incomes because being half way between artist and professional man they obtain the intense personal satisfaction of being near to the former and are therefore prepared, to some extent, to forgo the monetary rewards of the latter. That certainly is one way of putting it although I know very few architects in private practice who consider that they are adequately rewarded for their slavery. The romance of being nearly an artist wears pretty thin in these days of frustration.

FUNCTIONS UNAVOIDABLY MISSED

I hear that Mark Hartland Thomas's Bossom Lecture at the R.S.A. on modular co-ordination was very good indeed and was very well received by a large audience. A notable feature was the interest shown by manufacturers. It is proposed to start an association for those interested with, I understand, headquarters at the Building Centre.

At the R.I.B.A., Professor Wittkower spoke on the works of Inigo Jones to an audience of 300. He also talked about modules and was a shade too analytically detailed for some of my friends who were there.

ABNER



Mechanization at Norwich

Mr. Ernest Marples, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, visited Norwich on December 5 to inspect the progress of a housing experiment involving the extensive use of a tower crane.

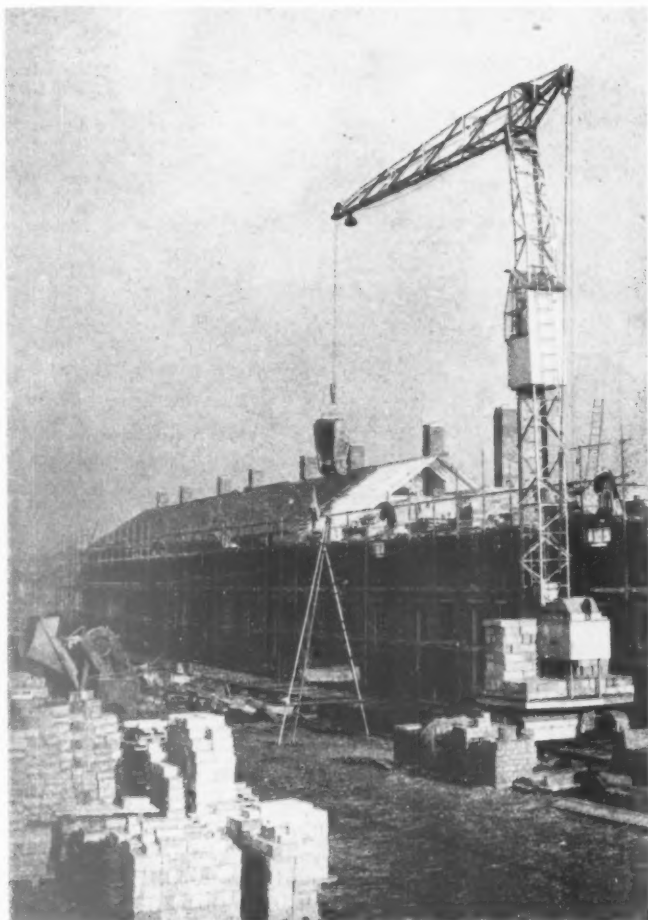
Mr. Marples congratulated the City on the success of the experiment and the City Engineers Department on their progressive outlook.

The City Engineer, Mr. H. C. Rowley, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., is using the Corporation's direct labour force to implement planning and progressing prepared by the B.R.S., who also supplied the crane, a Liebherr model No. 8 imported by Thos. C. Wild, Ltd., of Sheffield.

The B.R.S. are developing special equipment to facilitate the handling of materials on the site and are now considering the possibility of organizing the delivery of bulk materials in batches ready to be moved by the crane.

So far the experiment has shown a cut in costs of approximately £50 a house and nearly half the time usually taken over a block of 32 dwellings.

Pictures show special equipment and characteristic site layout.



Liebherr crane at Norwich. On the ground may be seen precast hoods and lintols, preformed stack sections and bricks on timber pallets ready for lifting.



Mr. Marples assisting in the placing of a section of stack.



Controlled discharge of mortar from specially designed skip.



Mortar board designed to receive from crane.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Devon and Cornwall Architectural Society

The Annual Dinner of the Devon and Cornwall Architectural Society held at Plymouth this year was a great success and well attended. Mr. Howard Robertson, F.R.I.B.A., and Mrs. Robertson were present among many distinguished guests, including City Dignitaries, Quantity Surveyors, Auctioneers and Builders.

Speeches deplored the invasion by outside architects in the rebuilding of the City, not only for multiple and Insurance concerns, but for local traders, the local President, Mr. Lionel Vanstone, L.R.I.B.A., suggested that prospective developers would do well to employ local architects, as those who have had the good fortune to design some buildings will prove.

Mr. Howard Robertson suggested a competition among local architects for a much needed Theatre.

Ald. Sir Clifford Tozer, J.P., regretted the great loss not only to the Society but to the City of two honorary members, Sir Harold Harmsworth and Lord Astor.

Mr. John Bennett, the Society's Treasurer, presented Mr. Lionel Vanstone with an inscribed silver tray in recognition of his untiring work as Editor of the Society's Annual Journal.

Speeches by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Ald. G. J. Wingett, J.P., Ald. E. Narricott, A.R.I.B.A. (President Elect), Ald. W. Harry Taylor, F.A.I., and the Rev. W. H. A. Cooper, M.A., were well received, and the year 1953 was forecast as one of greater freedom to build.

The dance which followed ended in the small hours of the morning and was a great social success.

A.R.C.U.K. Discipline Committee—Attendance of Witnesses

The Discipline Committee of the Architects Registration Council have been hindered in the past in the conduct of the enquiries by the inability to secure the attendance of witnesses whose evidence was essential to prove or rebut the offence alleged. It has now been ascertained that the compulsory attendance of witnesses can be secured by the issue of a writ of subpoena from the Crown Office of the High Court of Justice at the instance of either of the parties to an enquiry before the Committee. The High Court has at all times been willing to lend its aid to inferior Tribunals where they have wanted the means of enforcing the attendance of witnesses, and the necessary arrangements have been made so that subpoena can be issued without difficulty. In fact a witness attended on subpoena at an enquiry held

by the Discipline Committee on November 19.

The right to a Crown Office writ of subpoena arises from the fact that the findings of the Discipline Committee are subject to review by the High Court under Section 9 of the 1931 Act on appeal by the architect whose conduct has been the subject of an enquiry by the Discipline Committee.

The compulsory attendance of witnesses will be of material assistance to the Committee in carrying out its work.

Preliminary Notice : Summer School in Measured Drawing and Architectural History, Oxford, 1953

The Council of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Architectural Association following the successful Summer School of 1951, have decided to hold another school during the last two weeks of July, 1953. Residence, as in 1951, to be at Magdalen College by kind permission of the President.

In addition to the normal measuring work, of which Oxford and the locality provide such a tremendous number of subjects, arrangements will be made for students who instead of studying one particular work may wish to embark upon a specialized study of form and construction, entailing the preparation of measured sketches and of some finished drawings of such features as doorways, wrought ironwork and fittings in College Halls and Chapels.

Lectures will be given during the evenings and it is hoped to arrange two tours of architectural interest in the area. Further details, when completed, together with application forms, will be forwarded on request by either of the joint Honorary Secretaries, who are: E. Lassetter, L.R.I.B.A., Somerset House, Reading (Tel. Reading 60076), and J. Brosgall, Secretary, The Southern Regional Council for Further Education, Shire Hall, Reading (Tel. Reading 2120).

CORRESPONDENCE

Builders' Conferences

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir.—The R.I.B.A. asked architects to prevent builders taking certain action.

The B.C. objected that this restricted builders' liberties.

The B.C. also stated that the builders were not carrying out these activities, but offered to stop doing so.

The B.C. admits that it is still giving its members lists of the other contractors against whom they are tendering, but says that this has nothing to do with price raising but it is "nice" to know whom one is competing with.

Mr. Editor, either the silly season is now in full swing or the Christmas pantomimes have started early this year.

I am, etc.,

GEORGE SAMPSON.

Georgian Group Prize for Measured Drawings

The entries submitted this year were not up to the standard obtained last time, and the assessors felt that none of them was worthy of the full prize of £25. They recommended, however, that a reward of £12 10s be made to Arthur Francis, a student at Cheltenham College of Art, for the comprehensive manner in which he approached his subject. Brandon House, Painswick Road, Cheltenham.

The assessors were Godfrey Allen, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A. (nominated by the Royal Institute of British Architects), Edward Maufe, R.A. F.R.I.B.A. (nominated by the President of the Royal Academy), and S. E. Dykes Bower, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A. (nominated by the Georgian Group).

APPOINTMENTS

Misha Black has been appointed by the Board of Trade as architect for the United Kingdom Pavilion at the Rhodes Centenary Exhibition.

Mr. Black left for Bulawayo on December 8 for a first visit to inspect the site and make technical arrangements for the construction of the United Kingdom Pavilion.

Mr. T. Scott, O.B.E., formerly of Dollar, Clackmannanshire, who has just completed 27 years in the Colonial Service in Nigeria, has been promoted to chief architect in the Public Works Department. He supervised the design and construction of the new House of Representatives building in Lagos, where Nigeria's Parliament meets.

Moray Planning Committee have recommended to the County Finance Committee that a planning assistant be appointed at a salary of £715 to £840 a year. Because a suitable applicant was not found when the post was previously advertised, it was also agreed to recommend that a house be made available for the successful applicant.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. Leonard Elliott has moved his office to 15, Upper Grosvenor Street, W.1. Telephone Mayfair 0968-0969, where he will be glad to receive Trade literature.

EXHIBITION

An exhibition of the work of Inigo Jones will be displayed until January 3 in the R.I.B.A. building. Hours of opening are from Mondays to Fridays 10-7 and Saturdays 10-5 (closed December 24 to 28 inclusive).

About 60 original drawings are displayed, including examples from the Burlington - Devonshire Collection, which have been on loan to the R.I.B.A. for many years, and a small number lent by the Ashmolean Museum and Bodleian Library. In addition the Duke of Devonshire and

the Trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement and the Provost and Librarian of Worcester College, Oxford, have most generously lent some drawings from their magnificent collections. Photographs of surviving buildings by Jones are also shown. Although of predominantly architectural interest, the exhibition also includes designs for the Court masques.

Using Bricks to Best Advantage

Mr. Harold Macmillan, Minister of Housing and Local Government, suggests in a circular to local authorities that they can themselves do much to see that the housing programme is not delayed by shortage of bricks.

The Minister asks them to co-operate to the full in following the recommendations in the circular so that the maximum amount of house-building is obtained in 1953 and 1954.

"It has become plain that in some areas there is a lengthening delay in meeting brick orders," the circular states. "The Minister of Works is doing all he can to increase brick production. In addition to emphasizing to the industry the urgent need for greater production, he is helping to improve supplies of extra machinery, equipment and labour."

Two ways in which local authorities can assist are by ensuring that bricks are used to the best advantage, and by making full use of locally produced bricks, the circular points out. It reminds local authorities of the recommendations of a Ministry of Works economy memorandum on bricks* which was sent to them recently, and says: "The Minister expects local authorities, especially in areas where bricks are already difficult or are likely to become so, to instruct their architects to incorporate in their houses as many as possible of the savings and substitutions recommended in the memorandum. This should apply as far as practicable to houses already approved as well as to schemes in preparation. Cement supplies in some areas may limit the extent to which substitution is possible; this should be considered in the light of the relative local supply position of the two materials."

On the subject of local bricks, the circular says: "The makers of fletton bricks are already working to capacity. But in some areas local bricks can be supplied quickly and in these areas local authorities are strongly advised not to rely on meeting their requirements in bricks from outside, but to instruct their architects to use local supplies as much as possible. In the Minister's view it is better to complete houses quickly by using local bricks even if these cost more, than to risk the expense of having houses under construction held up for want of bricks."

* No. 3 in the new series of Ministry of Works Economy Memoranda, "Using Bricks to the Best Advantage," H.M. Stationery Office, price 2d.

IN PARLIAMENT

Rent, Repairs, and the Lords

The House of Lords debate on Dec. 10 on Viscount Buckmaster's motion calling attention to the need that revision of the Rent Restriction Acts to prevent houses falling into disrepair contained repeated replies to the proposals made by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. It was also remarkable for the reiterated appeals that rent restriction legislation should be taken out of the party arena. Viscount Buckmaster presented his motion in a non-party spirit, and Lord Lloyd, speaking for the Government, agreed that a subject already complicated enough might well be freed from the added complexities of party strife. Two former Labour Ministers endorsed this approach with direct suggestions. Lord Silkin advocated an objective inquiry, first to report as a matter of urgency on the particular subject of houses becoming unusable through inadequacy of rent to effect repairs, and secondly to report on the long-term aspects of rent restriction. This non-party approach was endorsed by his colleague, Lord Morrison, who suggested a "working party" of the House might conduct an inquiry.

Viscount Buckmaster recalled that it was nine years since he first moved such a motion. Since then the picture had changed: the just demands of the landlord were no less, and indeed had increased, but the demands of the community to have their houses kept in a habitable state were more clamant. After a passage in which he likened the rent restriction law to the Hampton Court maze, he offered a calculation that there were 4,000,000 houses at controlled rents going back to 1914 or earlier; that figure represented not only half the controlled houses in the country but also one third of the total number of houses. He quoted an estimate that building costs had risen to more than three times the level in 1919. He accepted that there should be rent control in times of housing shortage, but he did not accept that control should be at such a level that it was utterly impossible for the owner to preserve his house in a habitable state. The housing drive was being offset by the loss of houses that were falling into decay and becoming uninhabited. The Sanitary Inspectors' Association a year ago in a Memorandum on Repairs had expressed grave apprehension. He suggested in particular reference to "running repairs" that some increase on a percentage basis could be imposed, or one based on a formula such as that proposed by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, which used the statutory deduction for taxation—the difference between gross and net values—as part of the basis. Finally he argued that there was no need for political timidity. Security of tenure was the paramount consideration for most

tenants, and they would not object to a reasonable increase in rent if it were related to the execution of repairs.

Lord Lloyd, Under-Secretary at the Home Office, stated frankly that the Government were not able to state the intentions then. The satisfactory long-term method would be to get rid of the need for rent restriction, which, like other things, was the product of scarcity, but the only way of doing that was to build so many houses that it became unnecessary. He thought there was a tendency to be too pessimistic, and to give too little weight to the success of the Government's housing policy, and he could find no statistical support for the oft-quoted estimate that 200,000 houses a year were going out of use because of disrepair.

He analysed the prospective "life" of old houses, commenting that it was those built within a certain period after the industrial revolution that were possibly falling into disrepair. These 6,000,000 that were between 75 and 100 years old were coming to the end of their useful life, and building labour would be much better employed on new construction or repairing houses with a longer span of life. For this reason, among others, he rejected a simple flat-rate increase on rents. The repair and maintenance of houses with another 20 or 30 years of life was part of the short-term solution. But one of the lessons of the long experience of rent control was that if an increase of rent was to be given to enable houses to be kept in repair there should be stricter and more effective safeguards to see that houses were maintained in proper order.

Lord Silkin protested that the Government should have been more helpful. The House should have been given the results of the survey begun three months ago to ascertain the number of houses being rendered uninhabitable. He mentioned some difficulties in the Surveyors' Institute proposal: it would be difficult to secure that the increased rent was spent on repairs; some houses were so bad that no practicable increase would meet the need; and changes of ownership had included cases of property companies buying property at very low prices and getting a return which enabled them to do the necessary repairs.

He ventured the prophecy that the summit of the high cost of repairs was being reached, and that future tendencies might be for them to fall. The increased rents involved in the Surveyors' Institute proposals he calculated at something like £200 millions to £250 millions a year in the aggregate, and said that the effect of such an increase on the cost of living could not be ignored. The idea he favoured—but only as a long-term solution—would be to fix rents on the basis of the new valuations.

Viscount Gage, speaking as president of the National Federation of Building Societies, said that one society, on a block of 40 flats, had about £164 left over for repairs.

Another society pointed out that expenses for wages and repairs had gone up from £14,000 in 1939 to £33,000 in 1951, and their rents had not advanced to anything like the same proportion. Both societies were well managed, yet had nearly exhausted their reserves. He saw no obstacle to more effective party collaboration, since housing legislation was not based on party principle but was merely a collection of expedients.

Lord Morrison described the difficulties of successive Governments with small majorities facing the prospect of the kind of legislation necessary, and said that he saw no reason why rent control should not be taken out of party politics. He proposed that the House of Lords should form a working party to consider as a matter of urgency ways and means by which the loss of houses becoming uninhabitable through lack of repairs can be arrested, and to seek all-party agreement to the necessary legislation.

Lord Hylton questioned Lord Silkin's estimate of the cost of the surveyors' institute proposals. Under the scheme, he said, the average increase per controlled house would be about £10 a year, and this he related to an estimated total of 11,000,000 houses—4,000,000 old controlled houses, 4,000,000 new controlled houses, and some 3,000,000 post-1919 houses let at higher rents. A £10 increase would be 4s a week, and a sum like this most occupiers would be willing to pay for the great benefit of a rent-controlled house. In his view the surveyors' scheme would work, although a safeguard must be included to ensure that the additional rent, which might average between 5s and 7s a week, to keep the buildings in proper repair.

Lord Amherst, of Hackney, among others who spoke, was attracted by the surveyors' institute proposals. Viscount Portman agreed that if these suggestions were firmly and fairly applied day-to-day maintenance could be provided, but they could not meet major repairs, which would require substantial assistance by loan or grant from central or local Government sources. Lord Wolverton said that this should take the form of one-third grant from the State and a loan of two-thirds repayable over 20 years.

Lord Wise, a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and, he believed, the only one in the House of Lords, said he was put in some difficulty as a back-bencher by the fact that the Government spokesman had rather condemned the scheme. Their proposals had merits, as well as difficulties. He made the point that members of the institution were essentially landlords' men, and that in their scheme they had naturally and primarily sought to protect the interests of property owners. The increase proposed had been referred to as 40 per cent, but actually it was only 25 per cent in regard to repairs, was now totally inadequate for repairs, and some means must be found of augmenting it. In fairness to the sur-

veyors' institution he emphasized if rents were increased there must be thrown on property owners a direct obligation to spend that money on upkeep.

The Lord Chancellor concluded the debate. He too had no statement of policy to make, but he promised that all that had been said would be weighed by the Government in their consideration of the matter, including the suggested enquiry. In his opinion the difficulty in which the Socialist Government had found themselves was that they kept their eyes only on the poor tenant, ignoring the position of the landlord. It was dangerous to stop short like that, and the present Government would look at both sides of the question. An idea which had found favour on both sides of the House was that any increase in rent should be tied up with an obligation to repair, although there were some properties on which it would be a pity to spend money and materials. Some action must be taken to help landlords to prevent houses falling into disrepair and being lost as national assets.

B.I.F. on the South Bank

Mr. Nabarro asked what consideration the Board of Trade had given to the use of the South Bank site as a permanent London location for the British Industries Fair, and what were the considered advantages or otherwise of this arrangement compared with Earls Court. Mr. Mackeson, Secretary for Overseas Trade, said that the possibility had been examined, but it was found that the site would be too small unless a building with several storeys was erected. Such a building would be expensive, and in the opinion of many people unsuitable for the Fair. There were other difficulties also. (December 9.)

Hotel Repairs

Mr. H. Johnson asked the Minister of Works if he would include hotels in the higher licence-free limit as industrial buildings, so that hotel proprietors could spend on repairs and decorations, in time for the coronation, sums up to £2,000 a year without licence. Mr. Eccles stated that in present circumstances, he could not extend the higher limit to hotels. Licences for essential repairs above the free limit were granted freely by the Department. (December 9.)

Softwood Supplies

Mr. Nabarro questioned the Minister of Materials about softwood imports this year and next, and how far it would be necessary to continue softwood licensing. Sir Arthur Salter stated that it was estimated that about 1,060,000 standards of softwood—excluding pitwood and plywood—would be imported in 1952. This compared with 1,752,045 in 1951. It had been decided to give importers as much freedom as possible for 1953 in negotiation

with overseas sellers. It was expected that the continued limitation of consumption by licensing would avoid the need to impose any precise limit on total imports. Stocks continued to be satisfactory. As practically all softwood came from non-sterling countries, control of consumption would certainly be essential throughout 1953, and it would be strictly enforced.

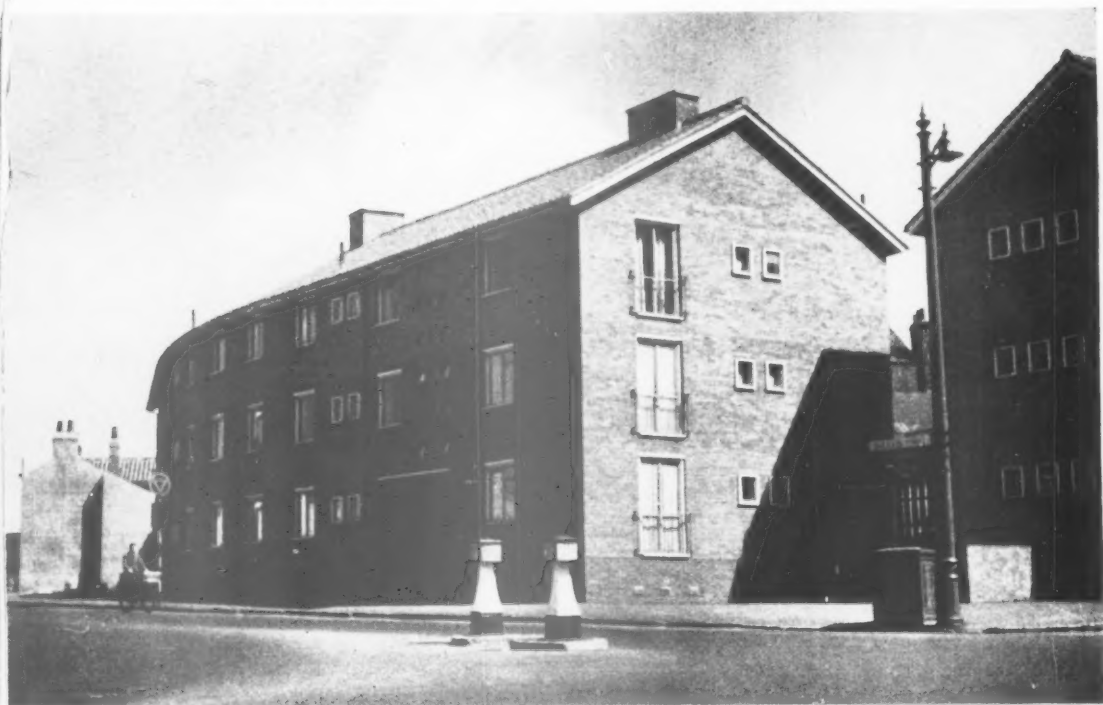
Answering a question relating to plywood imports, he said that private importers would be free to choose for 1953 between a number of countries, including Scandinavia. He hoped that private importers would know within a fortnight of the precise arrangements for 1953 imports of plywood. He regretted the delay, but it was desirable to spend time in getting the best arrangements acceptable to all interested parties in this country. (December 9.)

More Houses—Higher Standards

Mr. Andrew Stewart, Chairman of the National House-Builders Registration Council, speaking at the Council's Annual Meeting in London on December 10, said "The issue of block licences to builders is resulting in the speedier production of better and cheaper houses. In many cases houses are now being sold at a price below that stated on the licence."

This was a natural result of partially freeing the house-building industry; and a further upward leap in output could follow an extension of that freedom. At the same time the standard of house-building was improving. As compared with last year, more than three times as many houses were being inspected and certified by the Registration Council as complying with the approved Specification. Purchasers had only themselves to blame if they bought a house without the protection thus afforded. "All reputable house-builders were either already or would soon be registered. "But the public are woefully ignorant of this service. During the acute housing shortage they were prepared to accept almost any standard of construction, however poor. They can obtain and should demand the certificate of the National House-Builders Registration Council and the builder's two-year guarantee. Thus they will comply with the recommendation of the Minister of Housing and Local Government which now appears as a condition endorsed on most licences.

"In these critical days it would be a scandalous abuse of the nation's resources if building material and manpower were continued to be employed in the production of shoddy built houses. It would be an inexcusable abuse of the land on which such houses are built and a disservice to the health and wellbeing of present and future generations. The machinery to stamp out the jerry builder is available to the public; it is for them to use it."



FLATS FOR THE CITY OF YORK

Nineteen flats and one maisonette in two blocks erected in connection with The York Festival, 1951, at the corner of Paragon Street and Fishergate

ARCHITECTS : GORDON TOPLIS
ROBERT MEADOWS

ASSISTANT ARCHITECT : PHILIP GEERS

QUANTITY SURVEYORS :
DAVIS, BELFIELD & EVEREST

CONSULTING ENGINEER
FOR FOUNDATIONS :
LAWRENCE KENCHINGTON

CONSULTING ENGINEER FOR
HEATING, HOT-WATER AND
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS :

THE CITY ENGINEER, YORK
CLERK OF WORKS :

MR. HARDHAM OF THE YORK
CITY ARCHITECTS DEPT.

THESE flats have been built to the winning design of an open competition in connection with the Festival of Britain in York in 1951. The site selected was in the southern area of the city immediately south of the city walls, part of the site being derelict and the remainder to be re-developed in the next 50 years. The object was to build three-storey blocks of flats in such a way as to provide a good layout for both the interim and final development, and to arrange them in the first stage so as to screen the important junction of Fishergate and Paragon Street from the untidy motley of buildings which was likely to remain for some time. It was also essential to pay close regard to proximity of the mediaeval walls and good eighteenth-century vernacular buildings of the neighbourhood. The immediate building programme accordingly consisted of two blocks at right-angles parallel to Fishergate and Paragon Street and linked by a screen wall together with access steps and a door through to the space at the rear. The north block was curved to allow for the improvement line in Paragon Street and to fit in with future redevelopment. Vehicle access from the two main roads was avoided and was provided from a minor road to the east. The irregular area behind the blocks allowed for turning space and a sizeable drying yard and play area for children. An additional screen wall was provided to act as a link to the east with a public house standing well forward of the new building line, and the now exposed semi-derelict gable end of this building was repaired as necessary to complete the group. The site slopes in both directions towards the north-west corner.

The seven flats on the ground floor are designed to comply with the Ministry of Health Standards for Old Persons dwellings.

In the north block living-rooms face south and the dining recesses (where provided) are on the north side with a

[Continued on page 722]



West Block: Elevation to Fishergate

North Block: Back Elevation



F L A T S F O R T H E C I T Y O F Y O R K



Detailed Schedule of Accommodation

3 Flats with (single person)	Living room Bed recess Working Kitchen Bathroom with W.C.	N. Block 416ft. super
1 Flat with (single person)	Living room Single bedroom Working Kitchen Bathroom with W.C.	W. Block 444ft. super
1 Flat with (2 persons)	Living room Double bedroom Working Kitchen Bathroom W.C.	W. Block 514ft. super
3 Flats with (3 old persons)	Living room 1 Double bedroom 1 Single bedroom Dining kitchen Bathroom W.C.	N. Block 623ft. super
1 Flat with (Caretaker) 3 persons	Living room 1 Double bedroom 1 Single bedroom Working Kitchen Bathroom W.C.	W. Block 641ft. super
6 Flats with (5 persons)	Living room and dining recess 2 Double bedrooms 1 Single bedroom Working Kitchen Bathroom W.C.	N. Block 857ft. super
2 Flats with (6 persons)	Living room and dining space 2 Double bedrooms 2 Single bedrooms Working Kitchen Bathroom W.C.	W. Block 1,014ft. super
2 Flats with (8 persons)	Living room and dining recess 4 Double bedrooms Working Kitchen Bathroom W.C.	W. Block 1,120ft. super
1 Maisonette with (8 persons)	Living room and dining recess 3 Double bedrooms 2 Single bedrooms Working Kitchen Bathroom with W.C. W.C.	W. Block 1,273ft. super

window overlooking Paragon Street, the city walls and the city, a rather unique view. In the west block living-rooms and dining recesses face west over Fishergate.

There are open fireplaces in all the living-rooms, in addition to background heating.

All first and second-floor flats have balconies facing south or west.

The main staircases serve two flats at each floor level.

Utility Rooms

One utility room is provided to every two flats, situated on the same level and immediately accessible from the flats it serves. It contains the fuel stores and the refuse bins. Fuel stores for the ground-floor old persons flats are arranged so that access may be had from within the flats. The utility rooms on the first and second floors are served by hand-operated goods lifts.

Stores

Lock-up stores for prams and cycles are provided for all flats. They are arranged on the ground floor and are accessible from the front and rear of the blocks and from all flats without having to go into the open air. The caretaker's store in the west block has a bucket sink and a cleaner's store with bucket sink is provided in the north block.

Laundry

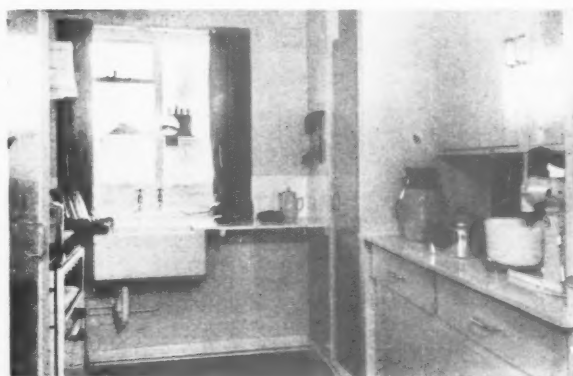
This is at the south end of the west block. The following



*5-person flat—N. Block.
Main bedroom furnished as Nursery for two young children.*



Living room and dining recess.



Kitchen

equipment has been provided:—1 electric washing machine, 2 small gas-drying cabinets, 2 sinks with double drainers.



5-person flat in N. Block. View from living room of dining recess.

Work Shop

This is adjacent to the laundry. It is equipped with one sink and drainer and two carpenters' benches.

Equipment

Kitchens are fitted with the following: Sink and teak drainer, working table top, dresser (with hatches to dining recess in some cases), ventilated larder, dry goods cupboard, broom cupboard, dead storage cupboards at high level, clothes airing rack attached to ceiling.

All bedrooms have fitted wardrobes with dead storage cupboard over. Each flat has a linen cupboard which contains the calorifier.

Services

Heating and Hot Water

Background central heating is provided in all rooms and in public and private corridors and staircases by means of wall radiators. Constant hot water is supplied through the calorifiers in the individual flats.

Bathrooms have a heated towel-rail.

The heating chamber is in a basement at the west end of the north block. Two hand-fired boilers using solid fuel are provided. The electric circulating pump is controlled by a rheostatic valve.

Plumbing

Hot and cold water services are in copper piping. Soil and waste drainage is arranged in a one-pipe system with a vent stack for W.C.s, and anti-siphonage traps to other sanitary fittings.

Gas

Kitchens have gas points for cookers and the majority also have gas points for refrigerators.

Living rooms have points for gasokers.

The gas service is carried out in copper piping.

Electricity

Kitchens have plugs for electric irons.

All living rooms have two 13-amp plugs and all bedrooms have one 13-amp plug for portable electric heaters, reading lamps, etc.

The wiring system is carried out in "Pyrotex" copper-sheathed cable.

Telephones Radio Television

All flats were wired for these services during construction so that they could be easily provided as required by the tenants without disfiguring the building; radio and television are by re-diffusion.

Internal Finishes

Living Rooms: Softwood boarding on splines on "Cabots" quilt. Plaster walls and ceiling. Yellow-grey brick fireplaces with York stone hearths.

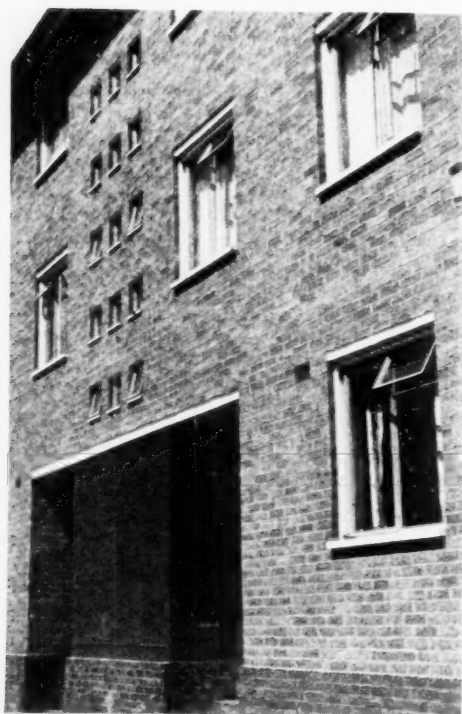
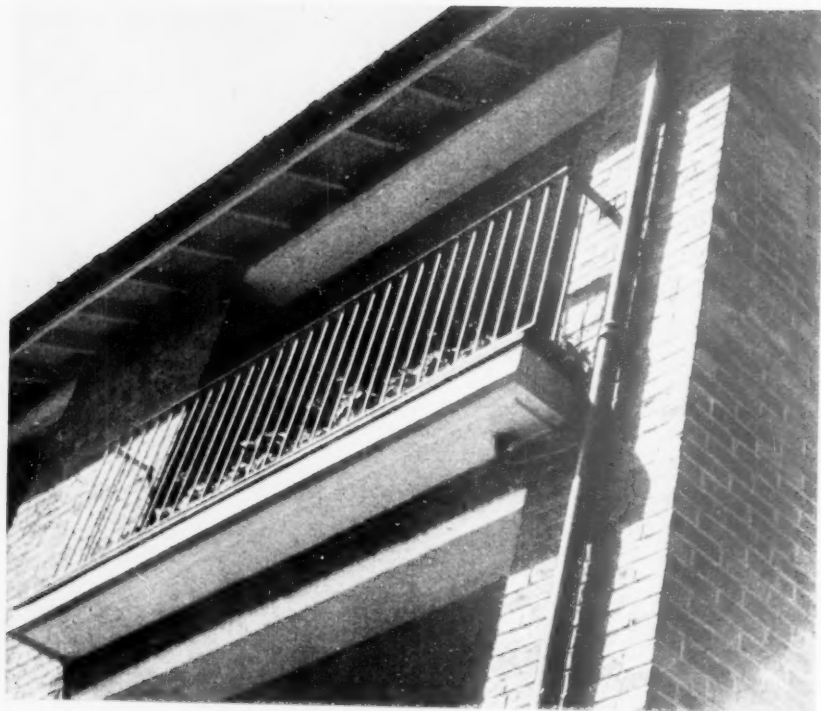
Bedrooms and Corridors: Red-brown and grey "Accotile" floors on cement screeds. Plaster walls and ceilings.

Kitchens, Bathrooms and W.C.s: Black "Accotile" floor. Plaster walls and ceiling. White glazed tile splash backs to sinks, lavatory basins and baths. In Kitchens the floor area under sinks, drainers and gas cookers is in red quarry tiles.

Public Entrance Halls and Staircases: Blue quarry tile floor with granolithic margin and skirting. End walls plastered and distempered light blue. Flank walls in yellow-grey brick. R.C. *in situ* staircase with granolithic finish and metal balustrade—handrail painted indigo, uprights white. Entrance doors to flats painted in various bright colours, architraves white.

General

Doors—standard three-panel. Linings, architraves and skirtings in wood. Window boards in wood except the kitchen windows and balcony french windows which have red and blue quarry tile cills respectively. All window heads have built-in rails for curtain runners. Cupboards generally constructed in lin blockboard. Colour schemes in flats vary, but are of a neutral unobtrusive character so as to accommodate the varying tastes of tenants.



External Finishes

Walls

Facing bricks are local yellow-grey, hand-moulded sand-stocks with a darker purple-red colour to the plinth. Rendered panels on the ground floor are painted deep crimson and pale blue.

Roof

Roof covered with red clay pantiles.

Timber on eaves and verges painted white. Gutters and R.W.P.s indigo.

Windows

Purpose made metal windows painted grey in fine concrete sub-frames painted white.

Balconies

R.C. cast *in situ*, covered with asphalt.

Metal balustrades to balconies painted pale blue.

Balcony fascias painted white.

Balcony soffits painted grey.

General Construction

Foundations

As the result of trial borings made on the site it was found that the subsoil is extremely bad, consisting largely of made-up ground and wet, sandy clay with very poor bearing capacity.

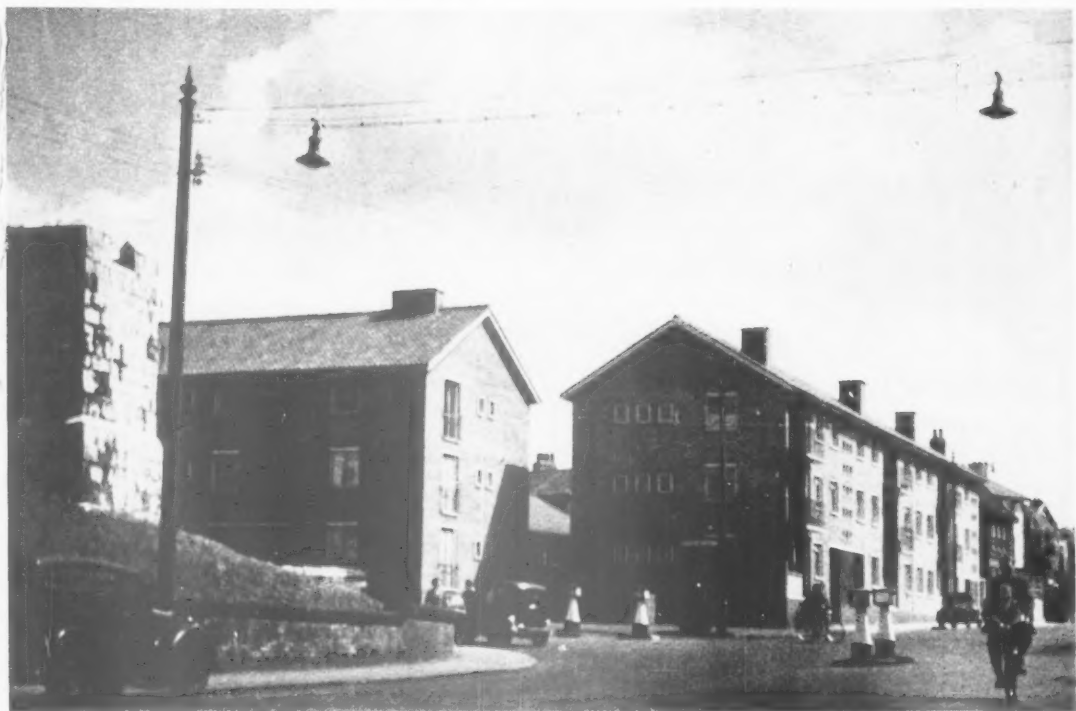
The type of foundation finally chosen was a reinforced concrete raft for each block stepped to follow the slope of the ground.

Walls

External walls below ground floor level are 15½in cavity brick and above ground floor level consist of a 4½in brick outer leaf, 2½in cavity and a 4½in foamed slag concrete block inner leaf with wall ties at 18in centres vertically and 3ft centres horizontally. The central spine wall is 9in brick, reducing to 4½in on top floor. Partitions generally are 2½in breeze block.

Floors

"Bison" precast concrete floors.



Roof. 30° pitch. A simple timber structure of purlins, collars, struts, ties and common rafters, felt and battens.

Thermal Insulation

The recommended standard of thermal insulation has been attained in the external walls by using foamed slag concrete blocks for the inner leaf, and in the roof by using wood-wool cement slabs to the ceiling of the top floor.

Sound Insulation

Cavity party walls and "floating" floors in the living rooms are provided for sound insulation between flats. Insulation is provided between the staircases and the adjoining bedrooms.

External Works

The service road is surfaced with tarmacadam, the foot-paths are *in situ* concrete, and the drying area is paved with precast concrete slabs and equipped with drying posts and lines.

Four trees were to have been planted in the drying area and the flower boxes planted with shrubs but the Housing Committee has not yet approved of this.

The boundary walls of the adjoining property at the back of the site have been colour washed light grey and yellow.

Contract : The Contract price was £39,872. The Contract was let in September, 1950. The first section was completed and on exhibition during the York Festival in June, 1951. The whole scheme was finished early in 1952.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS, Sorrell (York), Limited.

Acoustic Floors & Asphalt Balconies : Joseph Hardgrave, Ltd., *Asphalts* Co. *Bendix Washer :* A. E. Challenger & Co., Ltd. *Door Furniture :* Parker Winder & Achurch, Ltd. *Electrical Installation :* North Eastern Electricity Board. *Facing Bricks :* Facing Bricks, Ltd. and Wray & Sons. *Gas Installation :* North Eastern Gas Board. *Metal Balustrades :* E. Davis (Fixers), Ltd. *Metal Windows :* Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd. *Painting :* Dodsworths (York), Ltd. *Plastering :* R. W. Green. *Plumbing, Heating & Hot Water :* J. H. Shouksumh & Sons, Ltd. *Precast Concrete Floors :* Concrete, Ltd. *Radio & Television :* York Relay Services (1934), Ltd. *Roofing (Pantile) and Decorative Floor Tiling :* Joseph Hardgrave, Ltd. *Sanitary Fittings :* Shanks & Company. *Service Lifts :* G. Brady & Co., Ltd. *Turns, Service Road :* W. & J. Glossop, Ltd. *Telephones, P.O. Telephones, Waterproofing to Heating Chamber :* Wm. Briggs & Sons, Ltd.



General view from the South-West

G U Y S - M A U D S L E Y N E U R O S U R G I C A L U N I T

The Maudsley Hospital, London, S.E.5

ARCHITECT: REES PHILLIPS, F.R.I.B.A., (SAXON SNELL & PHILLIPS)

THE altered circumstances that followed the setting up of the National Health Service, and the growth of neurosurgical procedures in the practice of psychiatry, as well as the advances made in relating neurophysiology to mental functioning, all favoured the development of a surgical unit which would serve both neurology and psychiatry. Guys Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital have combined in the creation of a unit which is to be their joint responsibility. This neurological unit was opened by Viscount Waverley on November 20.

Description of Unit

The unit, as completed, comprises two ward wings, each of fourteen beds and one cot, making thirty beds in all, together with a third wing containing operating theatres, diagnostic X-ray, electro-encephalographic and laboratory accommodation, all arranged on the same level.

The ward accommodation and the central offices are housed on the ground floor of a pre-existing building, the former Private Patients' Block of the

Maudsley Hospital, which is situated along the south side of De Crespigny Park. The operating theatre and laboratory wing is in an entirely new building which projects at right angles southwards from the junction of the two ward wings.

Central Offices

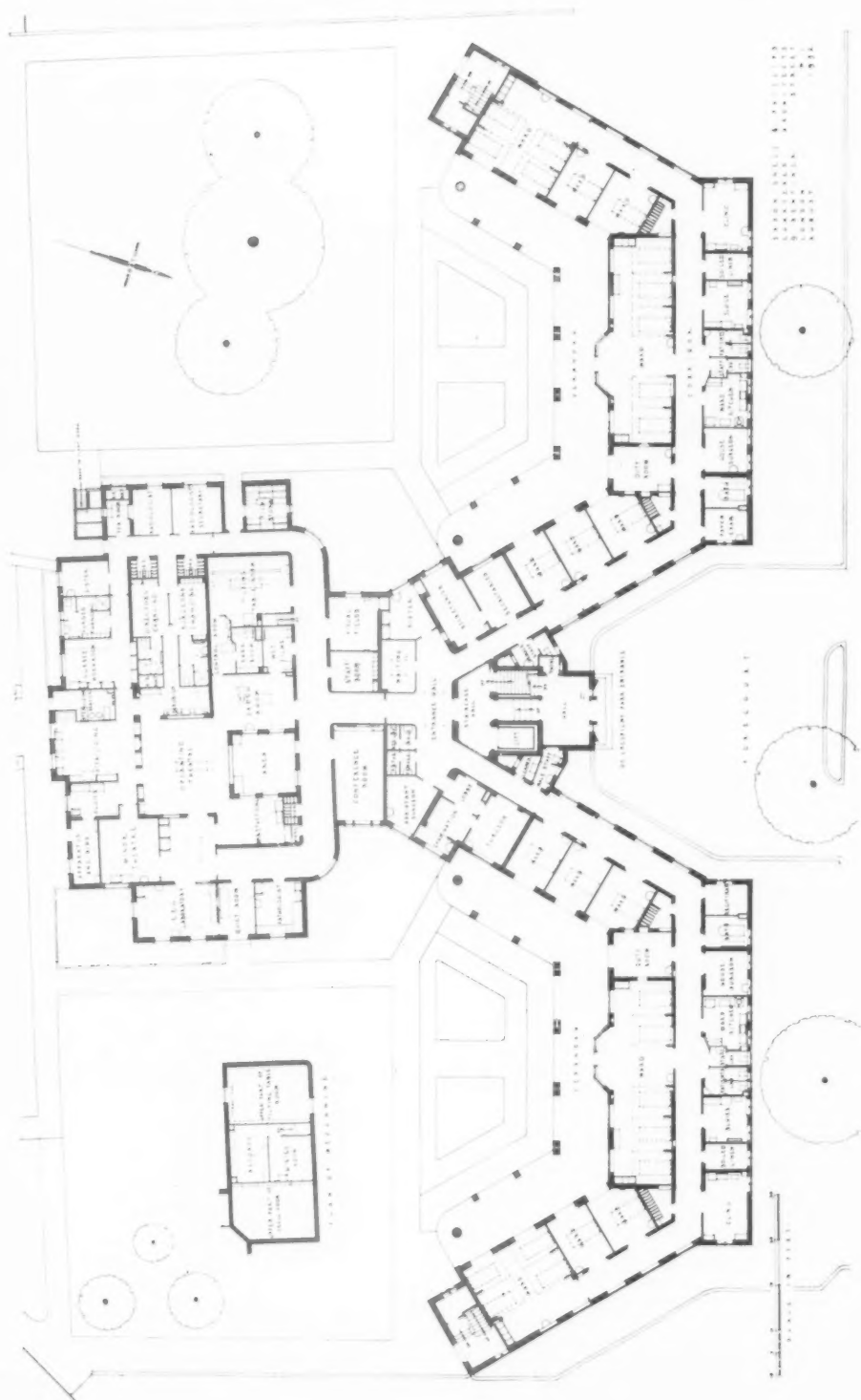
These are situated at the junction of the two ward wings. Close by are the offices of the ward sister, the neurosurgeon and assistant neurosurgeon, a small waiting room, and toilet rooms.

Ward Wings

From this central point the two ward wings lead, one westward and one eastward. Each is a mirror image of the other, and together they form a W-shaped plan. A corridor traverses their long axis, and all the accommodation for patients is arranged on the south side of this corridor, while most of the ward offices and services lie on the north side. The patients' accommodation in each wing comprises one five-bed ward, one ward containing four beds and a cot, and five single-bedded

wards. Each of these rooms opens southwards on to a verandah skirted by a pleasant lawn. In the wards each bed can be screened as required by curtains suspended from rails, and in all rooms a bedside locker, bedtable, and wardrobe are provided for each patient. A press-button calling system at each bed signals warning lights in the nurses' duty room, which is in the centre of each wing, as well as outside in the corridor. A monitoring panel is incorporated in the ward sister's room. The nurses' duty room is so arranged that the large five-bed ward as well as one of the single-bed wards can be closely supervised from it, for in these rooms the seriously ill and post-operative patients will be tended.

The ward services in each wing comprise a serving kitchen, linen and store rooms, bathroom, sluice room, and separate toilet rooms for patients and for staff. There is also a small clinic room for dressings and minor surgical tests, to which patients can be wheeled in their beds. All beds in the unit are of the type known during the war as the Oxford military bed—these





Four-bed Ward.



E.E.G. Laboratory.

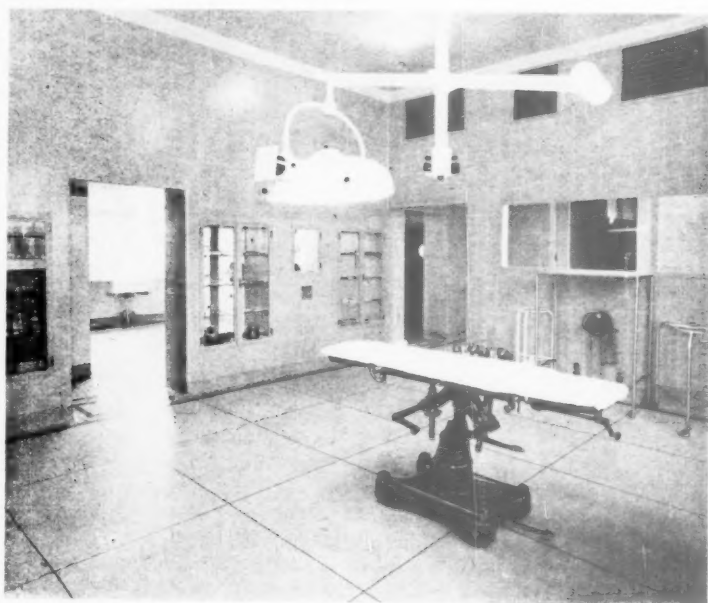
are readily mobile, can be easily positioned to enable a patient to sit up, and have detachable tops so that head dressings are facilitated. An office for the house surgeon and a small room for a psychiatrist or registrar complete the ward accommodation.

Operating Theatre Accommodation

The architect when designing the operating theatre and laboratory wing devised an ingenious plan with the main operating theatre at the hub of the wing and the remaining accommodation grouped around it. The arrangement gives functional significance to the teamwork which is required in neurosurgery.

The theatre accommodation itself consists of a main theatre measuring 21ft by 19ft and a minor theatre measuring 14ft by 12ft 6in. The presence of this second theatre will make possible the performance of minor diagnostic and therapeutic procedures while the main theatre is in use. To one side is the anaesthetic room in which patients are anaesthetized and positioned on the operating table before being wheeled into either theatre. To the west are the surgeons' changing rooms, and a scrubbing and gowning cubicle from which a full view can be had of the main theatre.

A separate changing room is provided for visitors. To the south are the theatre staff's quarters, consisting of a workroom, a sterilizing room, a sluice room, a nurses' changing room, and a theatre sister's office. In the workroom the nurses prepare their dressings, drapes and instruments for use in operations or in the wards. Ample built-in cupboard space is available for storage. In the sterilizing room there is equipment, comprising two autoclaves, hot



The Main Operating Theatre looking through into Sterilizing Room.

and cold sterile water containers, and boiling-water bowl and instrument sterilizers, built into one wall so that only the controls and openings to the sterilizers are visible, while all the engineering portion of the equipment is covered in and is serviced from an outside entrance. A refrigerator for storing blood and sera lies opposite, while glass-fronted instrument cupboards opening in both directions occupy the dividing wall from the main

theatre. In the sluice room a washing machine is provided for cleansing blood-stained linen and spinning it dry before it is sent to the laundry. Adjacent is a room open to the outside for storing bins of used linen until they are collected.

The main theatre itself is lined with pastel green tiles and a green terrazzo floor of a type which is electrically conductive to minimize the risk of anaesthetic explosions. A large theatre

light on a T-shaped mounting, ensuring a wide range of movement, projects from the centre of the ceiling. On the north wall a large window gives indirect lighting; this can be blacked out as required with a covered blind. Glass-fronted instrument cupboards of traditional type line the south wall, and in a corner mounted at shoulder height is a small incubator for storing irrigating solutions at body temperature ready for instant use. A built-in X-ray viewing screen, a panel of electrical controls and water suction apparatus complete the equipment. The whole of the operating theatre accommodation, excluding the changing and work rooms, is artificially ventilated with filtered air which is warmed in winter, and, in the case of the main theatre itself, is cooled in summer, so that a constant temperature and humidity, thermostatically controlled, can be maintained throughout the year. This is a great boon in neurosurgical operations, many of which tend to be long, and will minimize the risk of operative infections as well as increase the endurance of both patient and staff.

Electro-encephalographic Accommodation

Adjacent to the theatre on its east side is the electro-encephalographic unit, consisting of two rooms, a recording room which is equipped with laboratory benches and a quiet room which is screened against electrical interference. This unit has been designed for two purposes, first, for the routine investigation of patients from the wards, the patient being placed in the quiet room which is just outside the theatre precincts. Secondly, it is designed for electrocorticography or the recording of the electrical potentials of the brain exposed at operation, and for this purpose a direct view is afforded from the recording room of the operation area in the main theatre.

X-Ray Accommodation

In close proximity to the main theatre on its north-western side is the radiological unit. This consists of two radiographic rooms, one of which with direct access from the theatre houses the skull X-ray table, and the other the tilting X-ray table for myelography and other forms of fluoroscopy. Both rooms are serviced from a single generator and control table. Between the two rooms is the film-processing unit with a small dark room connected via a light-proof pass hatch to a viewing room where the exposed films can be inspected during the fixing and washing stages. Above this section are two small rooms, one for storing and mixing chemical solutions which are then fed below by gravity, and the

other for storing the old case-records of the unit. Close by is a storeroom for old films, a radiologist's room, and a secretary's room. Mounted on one wall in the radiologist's room is a viewing cabinet of the Manchester pattern, consisting of a large central viewing-box in front of which can be placed any of six movable frames, each frame carrying a whole set of X-ray films. Thus all the relevant films of one patient can be viewed simultaneously, while for teaching purposes the cabinet can be charged beforehand with X-rays of several persons.

Laboratory and Conference Rooms

The remaining accommodation of the operating theatre and laboratory wing consists of a small pathological laboratory, a visual-fields room; a staff changing room; and a general conference room. This latter is intended to serve a variety of purposes—from a reading room which houses a small unit library to a small lecture room in which discussions can be held and to which selected patients in their beds can be taken for conference purposes. It is felt that this small room will become the meeting place of all teachers and postgraduates who come to work in the unit.

The Future

This unit is well equipped for its special work. Situated in a psychiatric hospital and with the closest liaison with the neurological and other departments of a general teaching hospital, it enjoys facilities and contacts which are given to few other units. May it therefore promote the progress of neurosurgery, and in its turn benefit all departments of its parent hospitals.

The Consultants for the Mechanical Engineering Services are Messrs. J. Roger Preston & Partners, and for the Electrical Works Messrs. Couzens & Brown.

The Quantity Surveyors are Messrs. Clevely & Bass.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS: Allen Fairhead & Sons, Ltd.
Asphalting: The Linmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd.
Cement Glaze Audoles: Robb's Cement Enamel Finishes, Ltd.
Electrical Installation: Read & Partners, Ltd.
Hardwood Flooring: Horsley Smith & Co. (London), Ltd.
Heating, Hot Water & Ventilation: J. Jeffreys & Co., Ltd.
Inset Sterilizing Equipment: Chas. F. Thackray, Ltd.
Operating Theatre Blinds, Dark Blinds and Cubicle Curtains: J. Avery & Co., Ltd.
Reinforced Concrete Floors and Roof: The Klein Co., Ltd.
Rubber Pavings: The North British Rubber Co., Ltd.
Sanitary Fittings: John Bolding & Sons, Ltd.
Tiling and Terrazzo: W. B. Simpson & Sons, Ltd.
Windows, Instrument Cupboards: James Gibbons, Ltd.
X-Ray Apparatus: Philips Electrical, Ltd.

TIMBER NOTES

WITH freedom to buy softwood from any part of the world for delivery from New Year's day, the softwood importers are busy seeking contracts which will provide them with the specifications they require at lower prices than have been current since September. Many are unsuccessful. Because of the heavy buying from Canada this year about half the stock of softwood in the country comes from that quarter, which means there is a need to buy more heavily from the European sources if the varied demands of the building trade are to be met. Good class joinery timber, for instance, is already short in several areas.

There is no chance of any shortage of softwood in this country, and in constructional requirements the Canadian and U.S. timbers will meet most needs, especially where good lengths are required. Douglas fir and hemlock make up most of the parcels, but it is noticeable that some contractors in the south and south-west are refusing to accept Canadian specifications, insisting upon European redwood.

Prices appear to be stable at £74 a standard, and they should not increase in the immediate future; indeed, within a few months it might be possible to bring prices down appreciably, particularly if the Russian export organization places large quantities on the market.

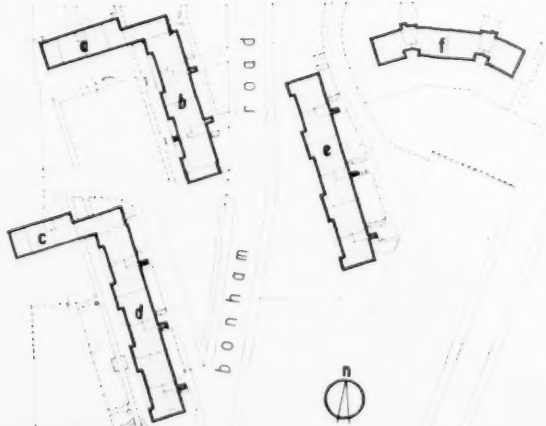
Now that the Ministry of Works memoranda No. 4 on the use of timber in building has forbidden softwood in many constructional tasks, but proposed hardwood and plywood as substitutes in the majority of cases, there may be accentuated interest among architects and builders in these materials. Stocks of both are high, for they are just emerging from a period of slump. Prices are keen for both, and in hardwood there are some species selling at low prices; for instance, mahogany is based well below its true value, and many of the home-grown timbers, such as beech, are to be bought at low prices.

With plywood the price control remains, with reductions being made for the speedy sale of certain qualities. There is every prospect that Timber Control will cease buying plywood from Finland and Russia, leaving the work to the private trade as the official Timber Control Organization is to close at the end of the year. The importers expect freedom to import plywood in 1953, and freedom from consumption licences, of course, remains. Prices may well fall a little.

Quotas for wallboard importers for the first half of 1953 have now been announced. The quantity is not large, but many in the trade had expected no quota at all because of the exceptionally high stocks, and British wallboard factory capacity is not being used fully. There may develop a shortage in some imported brands later. Prices are extremely competitive.

BONHAM ROAD HOUSING ESTATE for architects: GOLLINS, MELVIN, WARD & PARTNERS

Florence House viewed from South-East



Quantity Surveyors:

Davis, Belfield & Everest

General Contractors:

Clarke Barton & Co. Ltd.

Sub-contractors:

Asphalte Tanking to Basement: Durable Asphalt Co. Ltd. Electrical Installation: A. H. Cornwall & Sons Ltd. External Doors: Morgan & Partners, Ltd. Felt Roofing: McCartney Ltd. Five Escape Ladders: Loft Ladders Ltd. Gas Installation: South Eastern Gas Board. Hardwood Block and Sematic Tile Flooring: Hollis Bros. Ltd. Hollow Tile Floor. Roof Construction and Reinforced Concrete work: Foxett Construction Co. Ltd. Hot and Cold Water and Central Heating Installation: Stinson White & Co. Ltd. Internal Flush Doors: Joseph Sandell & Co. Ltd. Insulated Copper Roofs: Broderick Insulated Structures Ltd. Ironmongery: G. & S. Allgood. Landscape Gardening: Knowles & Weller Ltd. Lifts: Bennie Lifts Ltd. Lightning Conductor: R. C. Cutting & Co. Ltd. Metal Balustrades to Staircases and Balconies: R. Smith (Horley) Ltd. Metal Windows and Doors: Williams & Williams Ltd. Paints and Distempers: Jensen & Nicholson Ltd. Refuse Chute Hoppers: Clydesdale Ltd. Sanitary Fittings: W. N. Fry & Sons Ltd. Uxbridge Flint Facing Bricks: Richard Parton (Builders' Merchants) Ltd. Wall Tiling: Allan & Cairns (Tilers) Ltd. Wire Mesh Partitions for Pram Cubicles and Cold Water Storage Tanks: G. A. Harvey & Co. (London) Ltd.

the Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth

assistant-in-charge: A. J. Hoffman

THE site of $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres is level and approximately square and is divided into one large and two small areas by Bonham and Winslade Roads. The surrounding property on all sides is late Victorian two and three storey terrace houses. A further $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of adjoining land has been earmarked by the Council as future development and was to be taken into account in the density calculations.

The appropriate density for this area is 25 dwellings per acre. It was agreed, however, with the Town Planning Authorities that, provided the extension was developed at a low enough density to ensure that eventually the maximum for the whole estate was not exceeded, the immediate development could be at 28 dwellings per acre.

The 98 dwellings are planned in six separate blocks:— Agnes House: 2 storeys. 4 bed-sitting room flats. 4 one-bedroom flats. Beatrice House: 6 storeys and basement. 12 two-bedroom flats. 12 three-bedroom flats. Clare House: 2 storeys. 2 bed-sitting room flats. 4 one-bedroom flats. Diana House: 4 storeys. 15 two-bedroom flats. 9 three-bedroom flats. Evelyn House: 4 storeys. 15 two-bedroom flats. 9 three-bedroom flats. Florence House: 3 storeys. 12 two-bedroom flats.

In all on the estate there are, therefore, 6 bed-sitting room, 8 one-bedroom, 54 two-bedroom and 30 three-bedroom flats.

Site Layout

The six blocks of flats are planned around open courtyards which are set diagonally in relation to the terrace pattern of the existing surrounding houses. Winslade Road has been closed and diverted to form a private estate road with a pedestrian right of way for the public only; the open courtyards are laid out as communal gardens and as children's playgrounds and wherever possible the existing trees have been retained. Considerable further planting, however, has also been carried out, principally *Ailanthus* and *Craetulus*. The hedges are *Yew* and *Cotoncaster Simonsii*. The ground-floor flats in the two-storey block are occupied by elderly people and they each have a small private garden. Pram and cycle cubicles in the proportion of one to every two flats have been provided in small ancillary buildings attached to each block of flats.

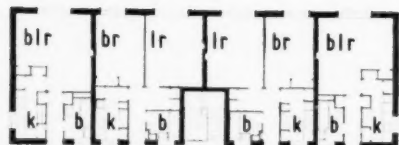
Flat Plan

With the exception of the two-storey blocks of flats which have an access balcony at first-floor level, all flats are approached by staircase access. All two and three bedroom flats have a large private balcony facing south or west. All flats have working kitchens and those in the two and three bedroom flats are large enough to take a dining table. In the four and six storey blocks, the bedrooms have east aspect and are, therefore, on a

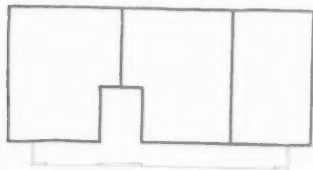
(Continued on page 731)

Block B, Beatrice House, occupies the centre of the picture with Block A, Agnes House at the far end. To the right is Evelyn House and to the left Diana House.



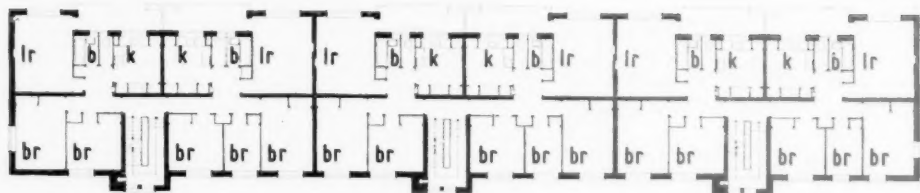


BLOCK A. AGNES HOUSE

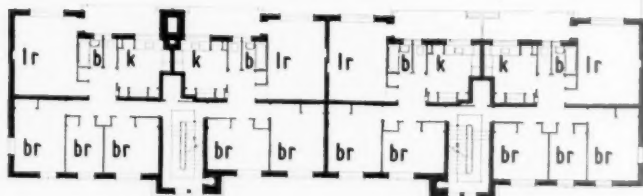
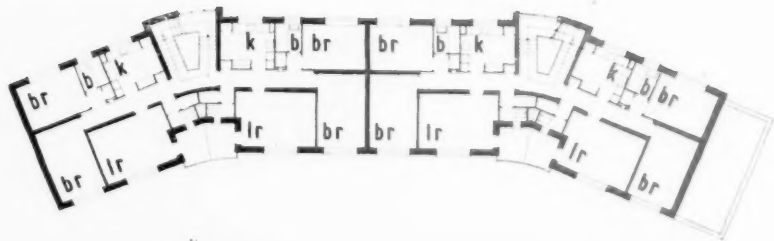
BLOCK C. CLARE HOUSE
Similar to Block A

BONHAM ROAD ESTATE

Typical floor plans



BLOCKS D & E. DIANA HOUSE & EVELYN HOUSE

BLOCK B.
BEATRICE
HOUSEBLOCK F.
FLORENCE
HOUSE



Diana House in the background with Clare House to left

Continued from page 731

different side of the block from the living rooms thereby ensuring that noise from the living room in one flat cannot enter the bedrooms of another.

The fittings are standard throughout the estate—cloak and meter cupboard and linen cupboards in each flat hall; wardrobes in each bedroom with dwarf deal storage cupboards above; larder, dry store, broom cupboard, dresser and sink with two drainers and cupboards under in each kitchen.

Services

Constant domestic hot water and central heating sufficient to provide a temperature of 65 in each living room and a background heat of 55 elsewhere are provided in all flats from three boilers which have automatic underfeed retort stokers for good quality graded coal in the basement of Beatrice House. These are connected by a heating flow main, a domestic hot water primary flow main to underground calorifiers at each staircase and a common return main running in shallow ducts, to all blocks.

Half the living rooms on the estate have, in addition to the radiators, gas and half electric panel fires. There is a heated towelrail in each bathroom.

There are two electric automatic push button passenger lifts in Beatrice House with a speed of 100 feet per minute and automatic power operated car and landing door opening and closing gear.

Gas or electric wash boilers at the tenants' choice are provided in each kitchen. In Diana and Evelyn Houses there are common drying rooms at the foot of each staircase, in Beatrice House a large common drying room in the basement and in Florence House small drying cupboards in each flat.

Dust chutes emptying into the Council's standard containers are provided to each staircase in the four and six storey blocks. In the other blocks there are refuse chambers at the foot of each staircase with space for either standard containers or refuse bins.

All flats are wired for radio rediffusion; the installation of a loudspeaker is optional.

There is no external plumbing on the estate; it, as well as all heating and hot and cold water services, is concealed in vertical ducts in each block.

The ring main system, for the electric installation, has been adopted throughout; there are socket outlets for both electric fires and lamps or radio in each habitable room.

Construction

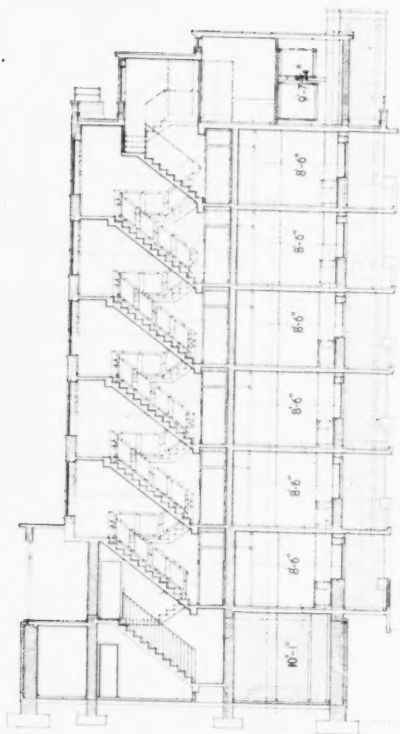
Load bearing brick walls are standard throughout with calculated brickwork in the six-storey block to permit reduction from the London Building Acts' minimum thicknesses. Partitions are in breeze block and floors and flat roofs are constructed in the Smith R.C. hollow tile with approximately 2½ in light weight concrete for

BONHAM ROAD ESTATE

insulation purposes. The ground floor slab is in water-proofed concrete and in addition has a waterproof membrane of one coat of Tretol.

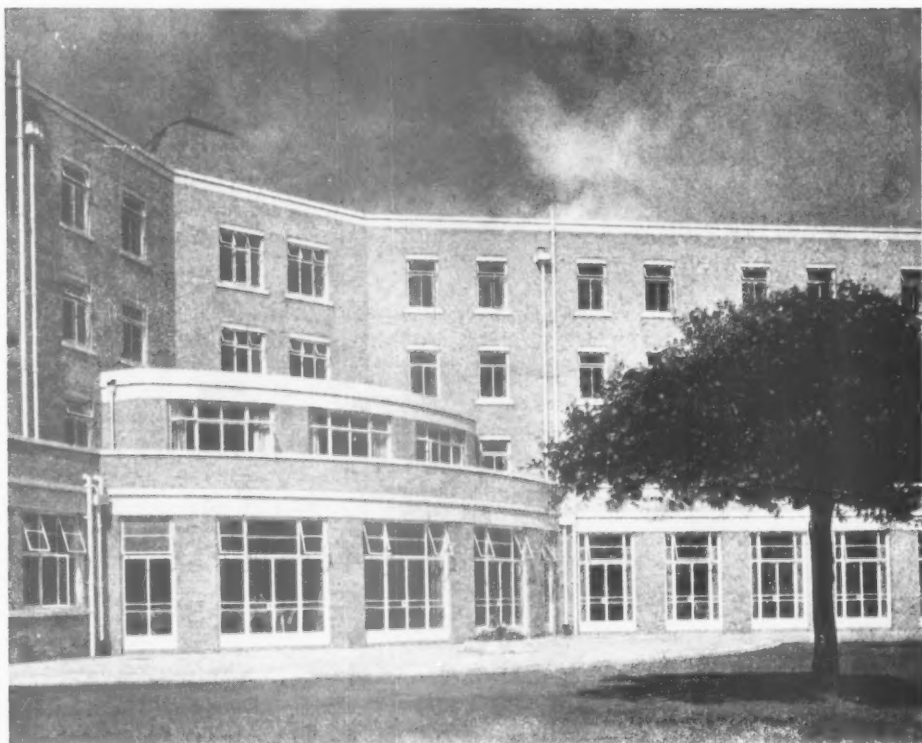
Finishes

Walls and ceilings throughout are generally hard plaster and distemper. Kitchens and common staircases are faced with cream glazed tiles up to dado height. The door frames are timber and the doors flush painted. Internal window sills are in quarry or glazed tiles. The floor finish in the living rooms is West African mahogany, Camphor or Krabak hardwood blocks and elsewhere in the flats thermo-plastic tiles. The R.C. staircases are finished with granolithic and the common entrance halls with coloured concrete tiles. The staircase balustrades are painted wrought iron with Georgian wired glass panels and polished hardwood handrail. The balcony balustrades are partly in concrete moulded into shallow flutes and partly weld mesh on a tubular frame. Ironmongery is aluminium in kitchens and bathrooms and elsewhere in B.M.A. The skirtings are painted softwood except in the bathrooms which are covered thermo-plastic and in the kitchens, coved glazed tiles.



Beatrice House, showing the link with Agnes House





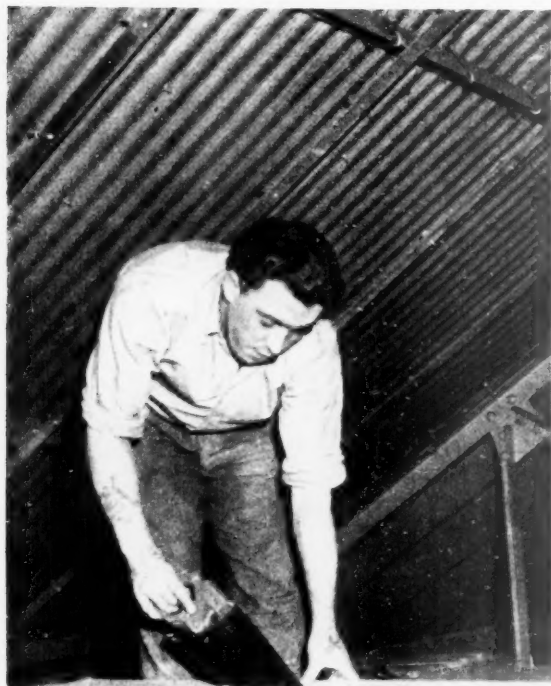
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Lloyd roof insulation has cut fuel costs by



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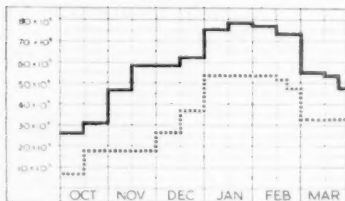
The office block of the Armstrong Whitworth aircraft factory at Coventry has a floor area of 63,750 sq. ft.

Lloyd $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Insulation Board lined with Ardor aluminium foil has been fixed by the Lloyd Talon system to the underside of the south slope of its roof. This insulation has reduced the average rate of heat transmission through the roof from 1.13 to 0.15 B.Th.U's per sq. ft. per hour, and has meant a saving in fuel costs of as much as 42% during last winter.

The boards and metal fixing components are light and easy to manipulate and two men handled the job comfortably. The boarded roof looks trim and even, reflects more light.

In summer, too, considerable benefits are derived from the insulation. By minimising the radiation of solar heat from the roof it keeps the block so pleasantly cool that only half the extraction and air circulation plant need be used.

The 42% fuel saving over the six months October to March 1952 is clearly shown in this graph. The top line shows the heat input before insulating the roof; the dotted line traces the input after insulation. Heat saved by insulation equals 4,416,200,000 B.Th.U's or 219.05 tons of coal.



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Italian Impressions

MY visit to Italy this autumn, three weeks of it, was my first since before the war. All of it was to places new to me, for my earlier Italian experiences had wholly been of Sicily and the South. In such a case, with not all one's time given over to the viewing of architecture, there was only one workable expedient. It was to see some things well, to gather some mental pictures and impressions, and to leave most of Italy's treasures, in architecture as in other fields, to the future.

For one's first impression of Italy, a country which has seen little religious iconoclasm, and which has preserved the bulk of its treasures through Napoleonic ravagings and two World Wars, is of a sheer quantity and variety that defies detailed analysis and leaves one amazed that so much of merit should have been accumulated in a series of cities that were not as a rule, in the days of their artistic greatness, so large and populous as now. One is astounded, by comparison with towns like our cathedral cities, or with those considered to be specially well filled with Georgian architecture and decoration, at the architectural riches even in a section, let alone in the whole, of such a provincial Italian city as Vicenza or Genoa. In Rome, despite much destruction and a very up and down history, there were historic reasons at work which made for a specially vast and continuous accumulation of important buildings. There, especially in "Papal" or "Baroque" Rome, the effect is almost crushing and can be bewildering to all who are unready to be superficial and who cannot impose upon themselves an iron discipline of the senses. One can in a short time make a careful study of one or two things, mosaics for example, or post-1945 architecture, or the work of some particular architect or carver. The rest is better unseen or only lightly recorded.

So far as pre-modern buildings are concerned one is immensely struck with the durability of the antique tradition as embodied in the architecture of ancient Rome. It is a commonplace that Gothic was never properly understood in Italy. But one has to see a few examples of what in Italy passes for Gothic to realize how slightly, even in a church like Genoa Cathedral where there are pointed arches and a clerestory, the designers of mediæval Italy freed themselves from the conceptions inherent in

Romanesque basilicas. In another Gothic church in Genoa the best part by far is the Romanesque crypt with cushion capitals and thin cylindrical columns that bring one's mind straight back to such a Norman Romanesque crypt as that of Worcester. Nor is the survival of Roman ideals confined to the work of the Middle Ages. Palladio and some of those who followed him were direct copyists of Roman design; the influence is more subtle, but was none the less inescapable, in the general run of Italian architecture from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries. For the constant appearance in Italian planning of sense of the monumental and the dignified is a legacy from the most spacious days of Imperial Rome, and though the palaces of Rome may have been more spread out, less towering and dominant over narrow streets than those of the Renaissance and Baroque phases, they too were built to a scale that has persisted as the Italian ideal and the stately massiveness of their *portoni* and marble stairways, as also of many Baroque churches, from St. Peter's to those of lesser size, is an enduring reminder of that desire to "build big" that gave us the Colosseum and the vast halls of the later Imperial *Thermae*. The past in Italy is an inescapable, haunting influence; I shall later suggest that it does much to hamper the acceptance of the contemporary.

I come now in sequence to a few remarks about some of the places I saw.

First, and most dramatic, Genoa. It is a magnificent city, comparatively little visited except by those on business, but immensely worth a visit for its site, its buildings, and its bustling modern activity. Venice may on the whole have surpassed Genoa in the pre-industrial centuries, and her fame as a city of art and architecture is ahead of Genoa's, but there is no question now as to which is the more important centre of modern life. For Genoa, with nearly 700,000 people, is the Hamburg, or Antwerp, or Rotterdam of Italy, but whereas all those northern ports are little blessed by nature in the beauty of their sites, Genoa's position between the Mediterranean and the close-encroaching mountains is superb—row upon row of buildings climbing a thousand feet from the sea and grouped like spectators in a classic theatre to watch the constant maritime pageant below. For Genoa is the place in Italy to see a constant flow of seaborne traffic, and down by the quays,

or in the war-ravaged area of the famous *Lanterna*, one sees, from the sleek, contemporary lines of the latest liners, how much has been done to rebuild the Italian merchant fleet. The city itself is to some extent the prisoner of its site. For space in the old town was terribly cramped, and many of its streets, to say nothing of many fearsome *salite*, or alleys, are of the appalling narrowness one more readily associates with the slum quarters of Naples. Despite heavy war damage the old city is full of old buildings that repay more careful study than I was able to give them. The mediocre Gothic of the older churches reflects the geographical nearness of southern French influences, and the use of alternate bands or blocks of black and white marble gives the same effect of polychrome variety as one gets from the limestone and yellow ironstone combination so effective in Northamptonshire churches. The city's earlier Baroque work tends to continue the basilican plan for some time after Vignola had wrought such spatial changes with the Gesù at Rome, and two of the city's Baroque façades have been astonishingly, and unhappily, modified by the addition of Greek Revival porticos. But in Alessio's *Sta. Maria Assunta* in Carignano, with the unimpeded execution of the Greek cross conception for which Bramante and Michelangelo had hankered at St. Peter's, Genoa may, I think, claim fairly to have one of the most beautiful interiors in the whole range of Renaissance architecture. To turn to a more modern touch, it is a pleasant irony to find that the fragment of Columbus' birthplace looks across an open space to a pair of skyscrapers (*grattacieli*), one of them nearly 30 storeys high, of the 1930s.

Rome is so vast a field that two points alone must be enough for the parts of the city that most visitors see. Ancient Rome has perished to a terrible degree (Ostia gives a far better idea of a classical town); you will see more antique columns polished up and doing duty in basilicas (Ionic and Corinthian sometimes jostling each other along the same side of a nave) than *in situ*. Almost without exception the surviving Roman buildings, the Pantheon for example or the Senate House, are well preserved because they were later put to church purposes. The result is that down-town Rome, the area where people now congregate, is overwhelmingly a Renaissance or Baroque city of the days of Papal sovereignty; it is easy to spend weeks or months of

a normally busy Roman existence without ever going to the Forum and the Colosseum. I myself was several days in Rome before seeing either of them. Baroque façades and fountains are, however, impossible to avoid; to appreciate the latter one must hear them as well as get a visual impression. Within the area wherein one most naturally circulates the best and most satisfying buildings are those designed as a whole and built *de novo*. Witness, for example the contrast between Sta. Susanna, which is a rather messy series of adaptations, from a beginning of early basilican brickwork to a Maderna façade far larger than the West end it is meant to embellish, and the neighbouring Sta. Maria della Vittoria which is mainly original Maderna.

Ravenna one visits chiefly for its mosaics. Even without them it would be an attractive, interesting town, for there are good buildings, basilican, Baroque and modern, to go with Dante's tomb (a little pavilion of 1780) and memories of Byron and his "Last Attachment." But with the mosaics, none of them later than the 7th century and the bulk of them put up by 550, the effect is staggering. One feels with such confidence that here at all events is a city with an assured claim to be the repository of some particular art. The mosaics themselves are late Roman or early Byzantine; the freshness and clarity of their designs and colours makes it desperately hard to realize that they were nearly all finished before St. Augustine came to Canterbury.

On the whole, my most interesting visit, seen purely as an architectural pilgrimage, was to Vicenza. For here is Palladianism at source, and it is to ancient Rome as re-interpreted at Vicenza by Palladio and Scamozzi that we owe so many essentials of our English Georgian work. The city is about the size of Bath, but it is far less of a "planned" or "Palladian" city. For Palladio's buildings, important as they are and lending great distinction to the older parts of the city, are no more than incidents and embellishments in a city whose main character had already been determined and whose basic planning was little altered by what was done in the 16th century. For Vicenza, whether you consider its ugly mediæval Gothic churches in slabby brickwork, or the fanciful, considerably more attractive houses in Venetian Gothic, is a city whose main outlines were complete within the first century of Venetian rule which started in the 15th century.

What also strikes a visitor from Georgian England is how little like English Georgian are many of the buildings by Palladio. The Teatro

Olimpico, for instance, is an adaptation from Roman theatres such as those whose remains Palladio would have seen in Rome, while Palladio and Scamozzi's *palazzi* in Vicenza have little English counterpart except in the Whitehall Banqueting Hall. Our Northern use of the style was eclectic rather than complete, and it is most noticeable that the later buildings of Vicenza, particularly those of the 18th century, are often far more like our Georgian Palladian than the work of the original master himself. Indeed, Vicentine "Palladian" lasts longer than did the English version, for two Vicentine façades of 1774 and 1776 are in a style that England would have found most fashionable in 1740. For the Palladian tradition was long dominant in Vicenza, and Baroque in the Roman manner never took real root there. The interesting work of such local 18th-century designers as Borella and Frigimelica remains under Palladian influence, and the dignified early 18th-century interior of the church of S. Gaetano is utterly unlike Rococo or what the same period would have erected in Rome or the South.

The famous Villa Rotonda is about a mile outside the city. It is Vicenza's only building of precisely that design, but it is less of an oddity, and less impracticable, than its copies in England. For as it was placed on a hill with glorious views in every direction its four porticos had their perfectly practical use as providers of shade for the four *belvedere* that resulted from the site.

I turn at the end to a few impressions of modern building in Italy.

Building and construction are deep in the Italian blood, as also is the use of marble for many purposes where we should, as a rule, be content with tiling or concrete. Much war damage has to be repaired, and there is a fearsome problem of housing and capital development. So much building work is in progress, a high proportion of it, so it seems, with somewhat primitive equipment. Steel framing is not, for instance, so easy to arrange in Italy as it is with us, and scaffolding is often built with heavy, cumbersome baulks and poles of timber where we have now become more accustomed to tubular steel; tubular scaffolding is, however, to be seen. One gathers that wages are low, and at all events in the autumn and winter work seems to proceed all day without concession to the practice of the siesta.

Rome is a fast-growing city, with its population approaching the second million, and is spreading out into what were once the lonely adjacent spaces of the Campagna. The growth seems almost wholly in the form of flat blocks

whose design does more deference to the notion of the palazzo than to those of High Paddington or Le Corbusier's latest achievement at Marseilles (the latter has, however, received much attention in the Italian Press). Small pairs of semi-detached working-class houses I only saw once, not far from the road and railway to Ostia.

A certain enslavement to tradition appears also in the work done to repair war damage; the tendency is for bombed buildings to be rebuilt almost exactly as before. At Ravenna the results are good, for St. Apollinare Nuovo has exchanged a weak and inappropriate Renaissance apse for one in accordance with the simplest precepts of the primitive basilican tradition; mercifully there were no mosaics in the bombed apse of this church. At St. John's, too, the reconstruction of both ends of a 5th-century basilica has been on similar lines. But one hears far less encouraging things of what is proposed for the interior decoration of the new church at Monte Cassino, and at Vicenza the Cathedral authorities have clearly never heard of the likes of Mr. Spence. For having lost the whole middle of a remarkably ugly Gothic building they have had it rebuilt almost exactly as before; an opportunity of something better was certainly lost. Completely new churches, so far as I could see from photographs in the Press, tend to follow basilican rather than Baroque lines.

The best really contemporary architecture I saw in a short stay was in some of the stations, and there the railway authorities are indeed to be congratulated; the main-line train service has yet to reach a comparable standard. The completely new Termini station at Rome may, perhaps, be a little too big for the volume of traffic it handles, but the design is exciting in its stark, unadorned, businesslike efficiency. Much glass and metal have gone into its making, and the use of electric traction keeps it admirably clean. In the provinces there has been a great task of reconstruction after the devastation of war, for stations were often targets, as such cities as Ravenna found. There, and at Ferrara where the timetable allowed particularly ample facilities for such studies, I found stations wholly rebuilt; elsewhere, at Padua, for instance, or Vicenza, the reconstruction has been only a little less complete. Inevitably there is a sameness in the designs, but the results are remarkably easy and pleasant, low platforms apart, to use.

BRYAN LITTLE.

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LIBRARY NOTES

Goths and Vandals

By Martin Briggs, Constable, 30s.

CHURCH architects, whether a Borromini in Rome or a Butterfield in Canterbury, have often been as much concerned with alterations, adaptations, rebuildings and restorations as with work designed *de novo*. But the work of restorers and rebuilders has had less systematic study than new creation, so that Mr. Briggs' latest book is a welcome, and well illustrated, addition to our architectural literature. For in a compact survey he gives an account of the work done, from Norman to neo-Gothic times, and in castles and houses as well as cathedrals and parish churches, to repair, adapt, preserve, or merely to destroy the architecture that existed before various later practitioners of the building art set to work on it.

The process started early, and for two main reasons. Often it was a case of basic safety or sheer preservation, for Norman ideas on foundations and suitable sites were risky to a degree and great fires were appallingly frequent in the days before stone vaults became *de rigueur*. More often still it was to achieve what the builders and their patrons thought to be genuine improvement, whether from the point of view of light, space for liturgy, domestic comfort, or aesthetics. Mediaeval rebuilders were ruthless and unhampered by protests from antiquarian societies, diocesan chancellors and the like; a nave or a choir would often, as at Worcester early in the 13th century, be replaced or drastically altered when comparatively new. Only fonts and doorways of the Norman period seem in many cases to have inspired enough respect for their preservation to be allowed—hence the numerous Norman fonts in otherwise Perpendicular churches. But down to the time of the Gothic Revival there was hardly ever any question in men's minds—Wynford or Wren the contemporary style was always the best. But patrons, the vestry of St. Dunstan in the East, for example, could often dictate the adoption of an outmoded fashion, and the Gothic of Wren is largely due to this tendency.

Mr. Briggs has much to say on all this, with long, useful quotations from such documents as Wren's reports on St. Paul's. He also points out how little systematic interest there was in architecture before the sophisticated study of it that resulted from 16th or 17th century visits to Italy. There were no English books on architecture before Elizabeth I, and the topographers like Leland and Camden, except for William "of Worcester" whom Mr. Briggs strangely fails to mention, were not really very helpful. The author rightly attributes more destruction to Thomas



"Menina que Passa," by F. W. de Almeida (Portugal), one of the 96 excellent plates from "Photograms of the Year 1953," published for the "Amateur Photographer" by Iliffe and Sons Limited. Price 12s. 6d.

than to Oliver Cromwell, though I still think that he underrates the losses, particularly in sculpture, caused by the Civil War. He goes on to stress the coming, under Inigo Jones, of Palladianism as a significant revolution in taste; it was not till our *cognoscenti* knew of Palladio and Scamozzi that the critical scales became weighted against Gothic.

Coming to more familiar ground, there are good, detailed sections on the restorative activities of Wren and of the Georgian Gothicists. The author underrates the number and interest of pre-1800 Gothic churches (if he does not know King's Norton in Leicestershire it will repay him a visit), but he does justice to Essex and Wyatt as restorers of cathedrals. Not all what they did was good, but some of their ideas were better than the achieved results. For some of the patrons of such architects, whether squires or deans, pressed, like some who later employed Scott, for unwise measures that the architects resisted with varying success. For a final judgment on the work of the restorers one would need to travel back

to their own time and then see exactly what structural conditions, and what technical and scholarly resources faced them when called in to their various jobs. But for a compendious account of what was done in such matters from 1750 to 1900 one can readily turn to the relevant chapters in Mr. Briggs' work. It is a pity, however, that his exclusion of Wales makes us miss the fantastic Palladianisation carried out by Wood the Elder on part of the cathedral nave at Llandaff. The book ends with a useful recapitulation of the counter attack carried out in the last half-century on the conditions that had accumulated by the time of the death of Queen Victoria.

Where I do not feel that Mr. Briggs gets wholly to grips with his theme is in his conception of what constitutes a "Vandal." Goths, of course, had nothing to do with "Gothic," and in any case they were not all so uncultured as the Renaissance art critics believed—witness nearly half the Ravenna mosaics that were put up under Theodoric. But Vandals were people who destroyed for destruction's sake, with-

out any thought of replacement, improvement, or reconstruction. They saw, they failed to understand, they were physically vigorous, they hated without comprehension, and therefore they demolished. But that has never been the attitude of most of those dubbed "vandals" by antiquarians, and occasionally by Mr. Briggs. For the Gothicians or Georgianisers of Norman choirs, the destroyers of monasteries and the smashers of roods, the refurbishers of Cathedrals and those who replaced genuine Perp. with mock-Dec, all these had a definite *rationale* of action; they genuinely believed that they improved comfort and beauty, made more convenient settings for contemporary liturgical worship, or simply glorified God. We may not aesthetically approve of all that they did, our odium taking on a special heat for the period after 1837. But the deeds of many "Vandals" were not without their reasons and were not, therefore, wholly vandalistic in the fifth or sixth century sense. For purer vandalism nearer to our own time one may fairly look at the activities of those uniformed members of the less-educated classes who wantonly wrecked the interior of many a seemly billet.

One only has to pick up a few points of detail. It was the hall, not the chapel, of Pembroke College, Cambridge, that got dynamited by Waterhouse, and the V.C.H. has now finished Warwickshire. It is also good to record that the Dorset volumes of the R.C.A.M. have just begun to appear; this fact would, of course, have been too late to get into this book.

BRYAN LITTLE.

Building Construction Illustrated

By Denzil Nield. Published by E. & F. B. Spon, Ltd. Price 21s.

MANY books are published each year on elementary building construction and the majority of these contain so much out-of-date information and bear little relation to present-day building problems that it is difficult to recommend them. Students of architecture in their early years, building apprentices and others concerned with building construction, find it difficult to obtain a reliable book written in a simple and clear manner and illustrated in a way they can understand, but at the same time dealing with the construction problems they are likely to meet in every-day building activity. It is therefore a pleasure to review this new book, *Building Construction Illustrated*, by Denzil Nield, for it meets all the needs of a book of this type and is one which can be strongly recommended for general use in schools where the elements of building construction are taught.

Mr. Nield has not attempted to produce an exhaustive study of building construction and does not endeavour to compete with the standard publications

which provide detailed information on many aspects of modern building. The author outlines quite clearly the scope of his book and one cannot improve on his own words as follows: "This book is an attempt to put in one volume very simply and without much detail the general picture of building construction as it is practised in good-class work to-day."

The author's wide experience as a teacher and as a practising architect has stood him in good stead in the preparation of his book, and it is to be hoped that students and others will appreciate its value and make it an essential addition to their list of textbooks. All the main trades in the building industry are dealt with in general terms, giving a broad outline of the problems involved and the way in which they are tackled in the normal building. The book is written in a clear and easily read manner and very fully illustrated with some of the best drawings of their kind yet seen in a building construction textbook. It is refreshing to see that the out-of-date details so often found in these volumes have disappeared and that in their place the type of construction used in good contemporary building to-day is clearly illustrated and described. The book has only two photographs and this perhaps is a pity as some of the information could have been amplified by means of photographs of the finished work. This omission is, however, probably due to economic considerations, and if the inclusion of such photographs would have increased the price, then their omission is justified in view of the fact that most building textbooks are too costly for general purchase by students who need them most.

This book can be most strongly recommended to students of architecture and building apprentices and even well-advanced lay persons who may wish to obtain a clearer knowledge of the way in which the various parts of a building are organized and constructed.

EDWARD D. MILLS.

Surveying and Field Work

By James Williamson, M.Inst.C.E.
Published by Constable & Co., Ltd., price 40s.

THE first edition of this book was published in 1915, the second edition in 1938. Unfortunately, during the War all the plates were destroyed by enemy action. So that a further edition could be published without the difficulties of completely resetting the type and making new blocks, this new edition is based on photographic reproduction of the pages. This has prevented a general revision, but the opportunity has been taken by excision and replacement of sections to make some corrections and improvements.

A new chapter has been added on Hydrographic and Hydro-Electric Surveying which, in view of the post-war developments in hydro-electricity schemes, should prove of immense

value to surveyors in this field. This chapter describes various methods of sounding by which the form of ground surfaces which lie under water in rivers, harbours and lakes may be ascertained and recorded. Methods of measuring and recording water flows in rivers and channels by the use of weirs and current meters are described and indications are given for the use of weir-formulae in ascertaining spillway capacities. Guidance is also given for the preparation of stage-discharge curves and flow-duration curves which are useful in the analysis of stream flow problems.

Apart from the new chapter the new edition covers the basic principles of surveying and levelling, the methods applied in surveying with the chain, with compass and sextant, with the theodolite, and with combinations of these instruments. Particular attention is given to traverse surveying because of its wide application, and triangulation is dealt with on a scale adequate for local requirements. Descriptions are given of the instruments involved and of the methods of using and adjusting them. The plotting and preparation of survey plans from the field notes receive detailed treatment. The practice of levelling, the instruments used, and the preparation of longitudinal and cross-sections are described in connection with the principal surveying and engineering purposes. The setting out of curves, transition curves and various classes of engineering work are treated on an amplified scale. Tacheometric methods of surveying are described for the principal purposes for which this branch is suitable, including contouring and topography and hydro-electric work. A chapter is included on the measurement of areas and of volumes of earthwork from survey plans and sections.

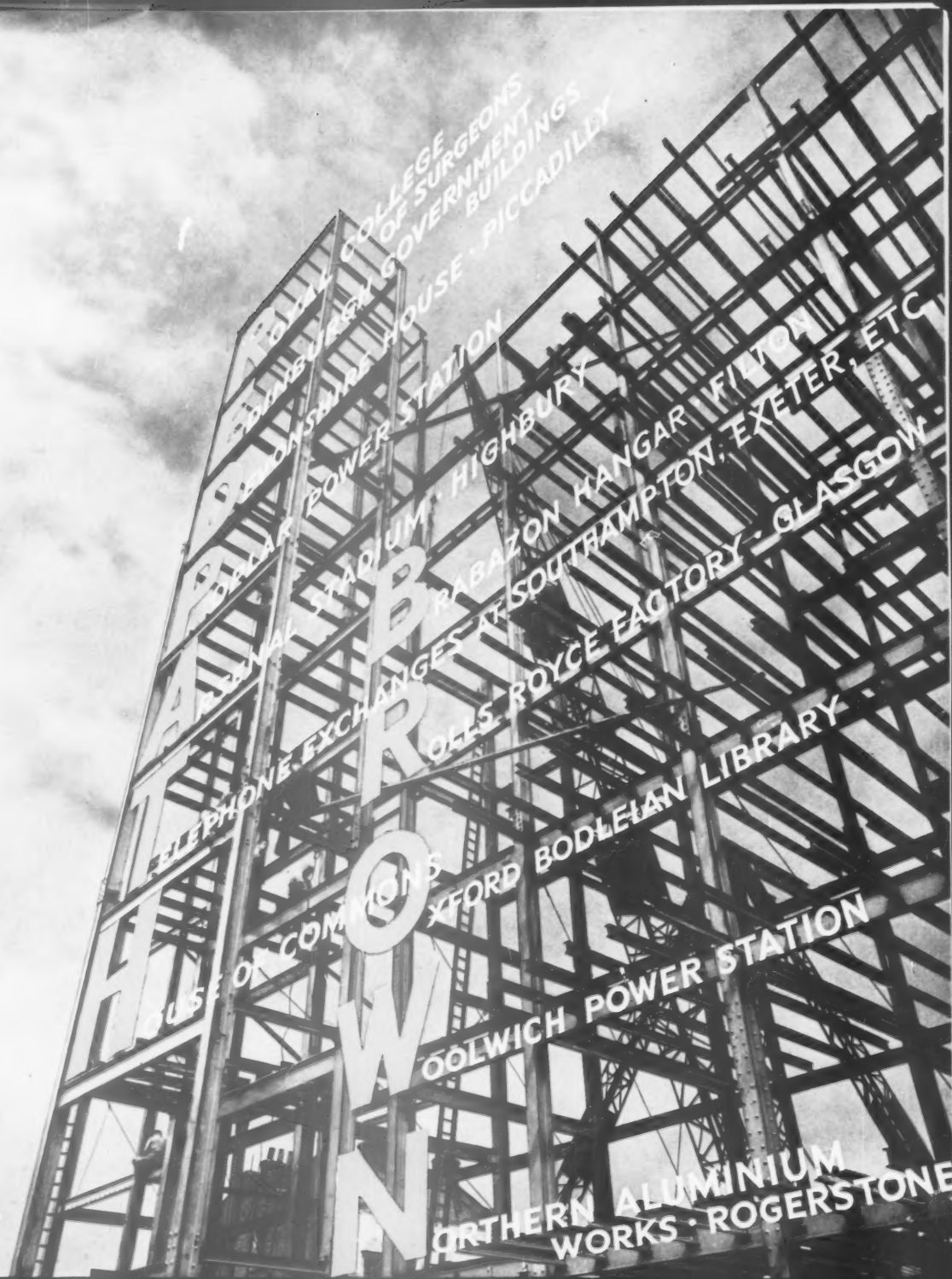
Eleven geometrical and mathematical tables of particular use for reference by the surveyor are included in an appendix at the end of the volume, also a reduction table for the simplified tacheometric method.

Detailed consideration is given in the various sections to the errors which may arise in the operations, and to the precautions required for minimizing errors and attaining a degree of accuracy adequate for the purpose of the survey.

All the chapters are well laid out, leading the student step by step from the fundamental principles of surveying to the more advanced work likely to be met with in the average offices. The author, quite rightly in a work of this nature, makes no attempt to delve into the complex problems met with in surveying huge areas of land such as are carried out by the Ordnance Survey.

The work is fully illustrated throughout, and numerous worked-out examples of particular problems are given in the text. The book will maintain its appeal to the student and those who have to deal with practical surveying.

M. E. T.



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The Golden Age of Elizabeth I

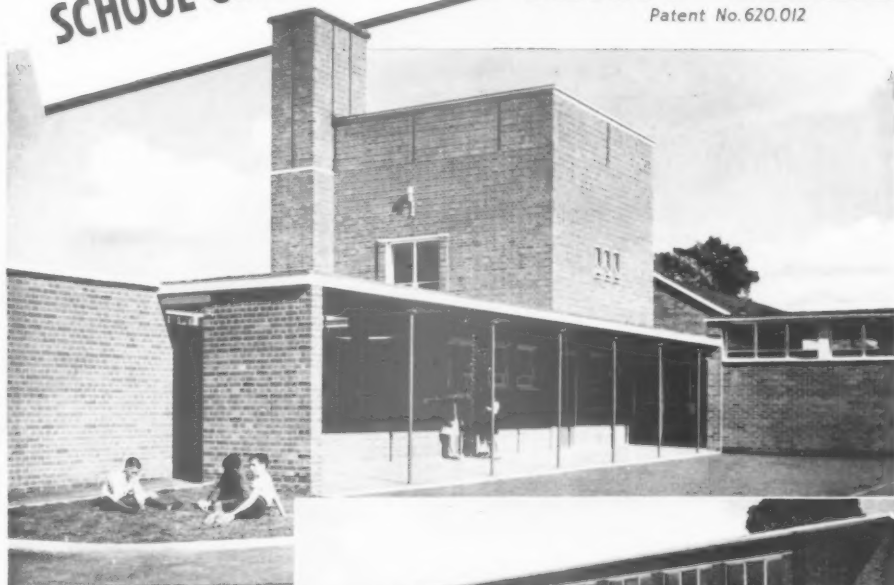
THE boar's head garnished with bays and rosemary and heralded by a fanfare of trumpets, symbolizes the Christmas spirit of the First Elizabethans. Merrymaking, feasting, ceremony, goodwill and charity—all had their part in the twelve-day season's celebrations. In the Great Hall, decked with freshly gathered holly and ivy, the laughter of lord and retainers would vie with the thrum and drum. Food and drink were in abundance. Besides pork there was beef, mutton, goose, capon and the recently introduced turkey. Mince pies of many-tasting savouries might follow, with plum porridge, nutmeg and blackjacks. And yet more—shred pies, cheese, custards, apples, and steaming lamb's wool to slake a thirst. Throughout the season, while the yule log crackled, the table was never bare.



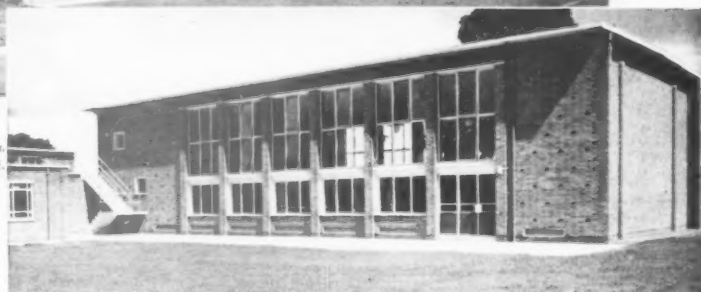
AVON WHARF, LONGFELLOW ROAD, MILE END ROAD, E.3. Telephone: ADVANCE 4444 (10 lines)

Asbestos-Cement
in
SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

"TURNALL"
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Asbestos-Cement
CAVITY DECKING
Patent No. 620,012



*Leagrave County Primary (Junior) School, Luton
Architect: Hugh A.V. Lobb, C.B.E., F.R.I.B.A.*



"TURNALL" Asbestos-Cement CAVITY DECKING was selected by the Architect for the flat roofs of this School at Leagrave, Bedfordshire. The units directly span between beams and provide in dry construction, the base for the felt roof finish, insulating cavities and a ceiling to take the decorative finish.



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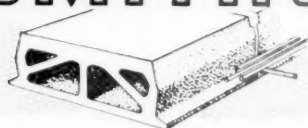
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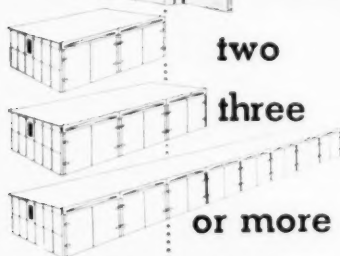
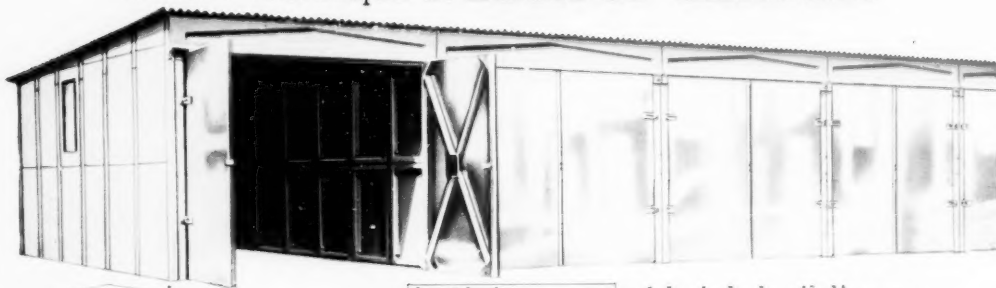
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OF HOPPER

CONNECTING
BRIDGE

R W P

5 1/2" RC WALLS

HOPPER INTO
REFUSE CHUTE

15" Ø 5 G CHANNEL

WATERPROOF
RENDERING

M.S. RODS TO
TIE IN AT
LANDINGS

SECTION

PLAN

3/8" CHECKERED PLATE
HINGED & BEDDED ON
SOFT ASBESTOS &
BITUMEN PAD
DETAIL AT BRIDGE
JOINT 'A'

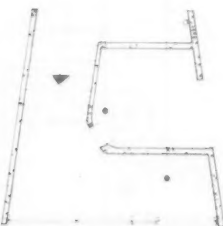
GRANULATED CORK

CEMENT SCREED

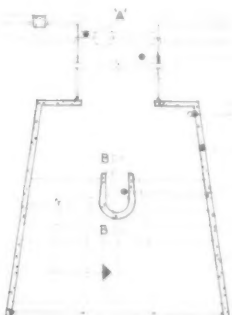
3/4" ASPHALTE

CALORIFIER CHAMBER
UNDER

REFUSE BIN



PLAN AT GROUND FLR.



PLAN AT 1ST & 2ND FLRS

SECTION B-B SCALE 3/4" = 1' 0"

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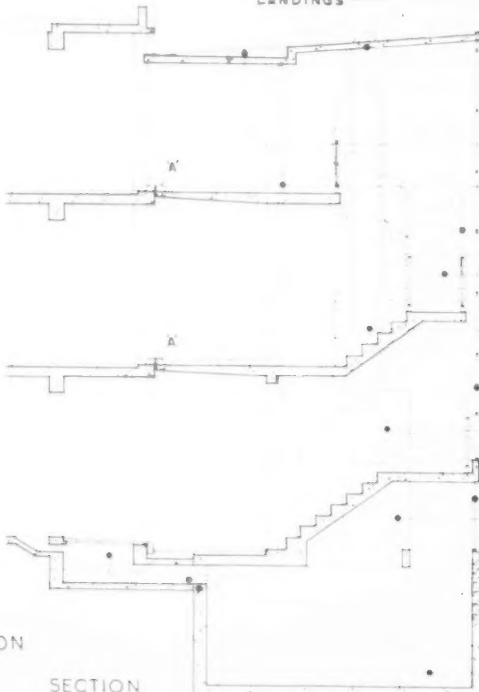
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SETTLEMENT JOINT



ELEVATION

KEY ELEVATION & SECTION
OF MAIN STAIRCASE
SCALE 1" = 8' 0"



SECTION



MAIN STAIRCASE, PIMLICO HOUSING SCHEME
ARCHITECTS: POWELL & MOYA

Two Complaints

A QUANTITY surveyor friend tells me that at some recent meeting of his professional colleagues there was reference to the impossibility of filing, in some convenient form, the great bulk of advertising literature received in offices, which it would be useful to retain for reference. The chief difficulty arises from its extremely variable dimensions. I commiserated with him as I, like most architects, suffer from having failed to solve this problem. We receive much trade literature which we would all like to keep for future reference, although there is at least an equal amount which is only fit for the waste-paper basket because it does not provide information of a reference character; this type of literature very quickly reaches the waste-paper basket and consequently, from the advertiser's angle, it is a sheer waste of money, time, paper and postage.

How best to keep, in a usable form, the advertising matter which would be helpful is, at least in my office and those of many of my friends, unsolved, almost entirely on account of the variations in size. To place it in some order of trades or types of product on bookshelves is most unsatisfactory and therefore leads to attempts to adopt various methods of filing; from my experience filing is difficult unless box files are adopted, and even then small-sized documents tend to become lost among the large-sized ones. Normal filing cabinets are only satisfactory if envelope type folders are used, and again the variable sizes make reference difficult. I have tried loose-leaf type of files, but they are an equally hopeless method of dealing with these varied-sized publications.

My Q.S. friend said that reference had been made to a B.S. for the standardization of the sizes of building trade literature which was published as long ago as 1946. Judging by my post and the material left by travellers, it certainly seems to have had only limited influence on those who advertise to architects and other users in the building field.

I have had a look at the B.S. mentioned, namely, B.S.1131, and it seems to me to be a very good publication, and its provisions ought to be much more widely adopted by those who advertise; not only does it suggest sizes for publications but gives also some excellent guidance on how best to present information to suit the user's convenience. One observation I should like to offer as an aid to better filing would be that the smallest of the three sizes for publications, namely, 4in high and 5½in wide, should be dropped from the range, thus restricting the advertisers to the other two sizes, namely, 11in by 8½in or 8½in by 5½in, as from my experience it is the very small-sized documents that cause difficulty. Incidentally, the latter appears to be the size of a B.S.

This B.S. was, I see, sponsored by the R.I.B.A., and I suggest that many of our troubles would be overcome if the R.I.B.A. would put a series of prominent notices in its Journal and in all the leading building trade journals asking architects, builders and surveyors to place immediately all non-standard-sized trade literature in the salvage bag and tell the firm's travellers next time they call what has been done; in addition, travellers should be instructed not to call again until properly sized literature suitable for filing has been issued. I am sure that only by the adoption of some concerted drastic action of this nature is there likely to be any effect on those responsible for producing advertising, and without their co-operation our catalogue filing will remain as chaotic or non-existent as ever, which is likely to be much more a loss to them than to ourselves.

My second complaint relates to a number of points to which my attention has been drawn by users of gas appliances. As the great bulk of gas apparatus is now supplied and installed through the branches of one nationalized industry, it may be hoped that there will be a better chance of correcting the troubles than one can foresee for solving the problem of filing trade advertising.

The first point refers to the indication figures used on oven thermostats of domestic gas cookers as the numbers used give very variable oven temperatures from maker to maker and are not helpful to those using cookery books. I noticed in a recently published cookery book it has been found necessary to include a table of thermostat settings for the various temperatures for different makes of cooker. If space on the thermostat could be provided for two digits instead of one it would be possible to give the actual designed temperatures to the nearest ten degrees, e.g., 24 for 240 F or 40 for 400 F which would be a boon to the housewife. Surely the gas industry could help the housewife and its own cooking demonstrators by insisting on standardization of this relatively small but important matter on all new cookers to be distributed. I believe the bulk of electric cookers already have standardized thermostats and the numerals express degrees F in hundreds.

From time to time replacements are needed on gas appliances and it would seem logical if more of the parts were to be standardized and interchangeable between different makes of similar appliance. Such standardization would reduce greatly the enormous stocks of spare parts which have to be maintained by those who undertake servicing of appliances. This multitude of parts must, in total, represent very considerable amounts of capital locked up for long periods in which there could be a great reduction by the use of parts fitting all or a very wide range of

all replacements. This same standardization of parts should also be helpful at the production point of the appliances.

Efforts on these lines have been made in relation to electric boiling rings and to a measure for electric fire elements but they could be extended with similar advantages in the gas industry to the advantage of producer, stockist, supply company and user.

The radiants for gas fires need replacement from time to time but it seems that the variety of types and sizes which have to be maintained by those who service the fires is very considerable. Surely it would be far more economical at all stages from the production of the radiants to the servicing of householders' apparatus to have only a very limited range of types and sizes in use which could be mass-produced in great quantities.

Another point at which some standardization is needed to aid production and simplify stock keeping is to simplify the range of connectors used for the attachment of gas fires to their flues. These connectors are often made from asbestos-cement and I am told that there must be at least a hundred types and sizes which have to be produced in order to suit the convenience of the gas fire manufacturers. It would seem that a reduction of this range to perhaps two dozen types and sizes ought to be possible by a little co-operation between gas-fire manufacturers. I am sure the asbestos-cement producers would welcome the simplification in their moulds and stocks as a means of output increasing the efficiency of their works.

May I remind readers that there was a recent Act of Parliament requiring gas, electric and oil fires and similar space heaters to be properly guarded. I have not as yet seen the Regulations which will set out the detailed requirements for the guards but I notice that already there is an increase in the provision of guards on the appliances now being displayed in the showrooms. It is certainly wise to select from these properly guarded appliances to safeguard the occupants of the buildings for which we are responsible.

DUTCH UNCLE

M.O.W. LECTURES JANUARY

RHYL, *January 6th, at 7 p.m.*
NEW TIMBERS AND THEIR USES.—
Speaker: J. R. Aaron, Timber Development Association, at the Holborn Restaurant, Wellington Road, Rhyl.

LLANDUDNO, *January 7th, at 7 p.m.*
NEW TIMBERS AND THEIR USES.—
Speaker: J. R. Aaron, Timber Development Association, at the Council Chambers, The Town Hall, Llandudno.

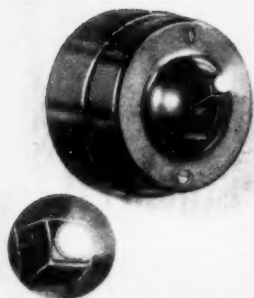
CAERNARVON, *January 8th, at 7 p.m.*
NEW TIMBERS AND THEIR USES.—
Speaker: J. R. Aaron, Timber Development Association, at the Lecture Room, Institute Building, Caernarvon.



SERVICES ELECTRIC WIRING AND ACCESSORIES B 5 9

The four pictures on this page illustrate an invention for which patents have been applied.

The patentees claim that switches and bell pushes which have to be used in the dark should be visible. Here are a pendant light switch and a pendant bell push with illuminated dollies.

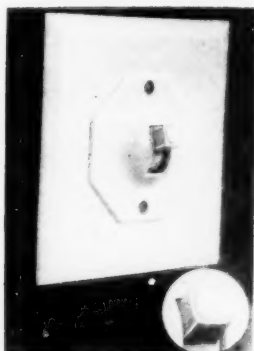


SERVICES ELECTRIC WIRING AND ACCESSORIES B 5 10

The principle of the illuminated dolly (see also B 5 9) is here applied to a normal wall switch. The first reaction to this innovation may be that one can find a switch by feel. This may apply—though not always in one's own home; but in strange rooms in hotels, in bathrooms and so on the search for the unfamiliar switch can be a minor aggravation.

The illuminated switch should do much to prevent the soiling of decorations by the groping hand.

Tests have shown that even the most confident people have failed to find a well-known switch first time.

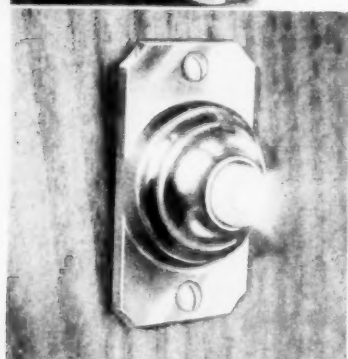


SERVICES ELECTRIC WIRING AND ACCESSORIES B 5 11

The same principle of illumination is shown in B 5 9 and 10 is here applied to a flush switch.

The light is provided by a Radio-active compound housed behind a minute transparent Polystyrene covering in the dolly. This method unlike other forms of luminous indicator does not rely on outside sources of light to feed it. It is claimed that the effective light life of this type of switch is about fifteen years.

This device if specified by architects in this country could be an effective export article if noticed by Coronation visitors.



SERVICES ELECTRIC WIRING AND ACCESSORIES B 5 12

The bell push on front or back door is possibly the most valuable use for the illuminated spot.

Apart from its application to domestic buildings there could be considerable demand for this type of bell for doctors' surgeries, etc. For flats, too, where several bells are together much fumbling could be avoided.

The cost of this device is said to add only a few pence to existing retail prices.

MOSAICS

The names and addresses of manufacturers of any item illustrated in MOSAICS, together with more detailed information relating to their products—including price and availability—will be forwarded to readers on request.

Letters should quote the serial number and be addressed to:

The Editor,
The Architect and Building News,
Dorset House,
Stamford Street, S.E.1.

Please mark the envelope MOSAICS.

The Directorate of Non-Ferrous Metals, Rugby, will terminate its existing sales arrangements on December 31 next. Consumers will be able if they wish to purchase in December zinc for delivery in January on the Ministry's usual sales terms.

The Committee of the London Metal Exchange have informed the Ministry that Exchange dealings in zinc will begin on January 2, 1953, as January 1 is traditionally a closed day for the market.

The Ministry of Materials wishes it to be known that it is its policy to release from its stocks not more than a relatively small tonnage for sale during the early months after the resumption of private trading. The arrangements for disposal of Ministry stocks have been arrived at in full consultation with producers, consumers and members of the London Metal Exchange.

The zinc to be disposed of will be made available through the London Metal Exchange and other normal trade channels will be adequate to meet the requirements of consumers.

The Timber Control of the Ministry of Materials will be wound up on December 31, 1952, when the Controller and his Deputies will relinquish their posts.

It is most important that it should be fully understood that regulations in force governing the acquisition, consumption or price of any types of timber or plywood will not be affected by the arrangements in this notice. In particular, the licensing of the acquisition and consumption of all softwood, which is essential for balance of payments reasons, will continue to be strictly enforced.

The administration of these regulations and the handling of Government stocks will continue to be the responsibility of the Ministry of Materials which will incorporate a Timber Directorate under Mr. E. Vincent Kelley as Director, with Mr. J. E. Rumney and Mr. F. W. James as Deputy Directors. The address of the Directorate will be: Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London, W.C.1. Telephone: Chancery 4411.

The Directorate will have its own Finance Department, but the Finance Department of Timber Control will also remain in being in order to complete the Control's accounts up to December 31, 1952. Until further notice its address will be: Bridge House, Clifton Down, Bristol, 8. Telephone: Bristol 36861.

The Ministry of Materials will inform the Timber Trade Federation of the arrangements which are being made to ensure adequate consultation and advice of the various Sections of the Federation on the matters with which each is concerned.

Notes below give basic data of contracts open under locality and authority which are in bold type. References indicate: (a) type of work, (b) address for application. Where no town is stated in the

CONTRACT • NEWS •

OPEN BUILDING

ASHFORD (KENT) U.C. (a) Block of 8 shops and maisonette flats, Beaver Green Shopping Centre. (b) Council's Clerk, Council Offices, Church Road. (c) 3gns. (d) Dec. 20.

AYLESBURY B.C. (a) 120 flats of different types, Bucking Road. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 2gns each tender. (e) Dec. 29.

BEDFORDSHIRE C.C. (a) 1 small-holder's cottage at Flitwick Folly Farm; Stotford Bury Farm; Biggleswade Bleak Hall; also farm buildings at Bleak Hall, Biggleswade. (b) County Architect, Shire Hall, Bedford; stating site. (d) Dec. 22.

BILLINGHAM U.C. (a) (Contract No. 1) 18 houses; (Contract No. 2) 16; (Contract No. 3) 32; (Contract No. 4) 52; and (Contract No. 5) 18 houses. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Haverton Hall. (c) 2gns cheque, payable to Council. (e) Jan. 13.

BRIDPORT R.C. (a) 72 dwellings with roads, sewers, etc., Bradpole site. (b) L. F. A. Maddocks, Surveyor's Office, Victoria Grove; stating in what works interested and, in the case of dwellings, the number that could be completed in a reasonable time.

BRIXHAM U.C. (a) (1) 20 houses; (2) 20 houses; (3) 10 houses; and (4) 10 bungalows, Penn Valley Estate. (b) W. G. Coudrey and Son, 14, Palace Avenue, Paignton. (c) 2gns cheque, payable to Council. (e) Jan. 6.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS B.C. (a) 40 houses, Baldwin Avenue, Mildenhall Road Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Borough Offices. (c) 2gns. (e) Jan. 5.

CAERNARVONSHIRE E.C. (a) Brvn-refail comprehensive school, Llanrug. (b) Director of Education, Education Offices, Caernarvon; with details of other similar works and evidence of their satisfactory conclusion. (d) Dec. 20.

CARDIFF C.C. (a) Additional lavatory accommodation at Lansdowne Road School, Norfolk Street. (b) City Surveyor's Dept., City Hall. (c) 2gns. (e) Jan. 5.

CHEPSTOW R.C. (a) 44 houses at Portskewett. (b) Mr. Stephen Thomas, Metropolitan Bank Chambers, 26, Commercial Street, Newport. (c) 3gns. (e) Jan. 1.

CHERTSEY U.C. (a) Public conveniences, Kingthorpe Gardens, Addlestone. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices. (c) 1gn. (e) Jan. 8.

CHESTER R.C. (a) 22 houses, Saughall, near Chester. (b) T. C. R. Eaton, 16, White Friars. (c) 3gns, payable to Council. (e) Jan. 12.

CHESTER C.C. (a) (Contract 3/211). 211 houses and flats, Blacon Estate. (b) City Engineer, 43, Northgate Street. (d) Dec. 22.

address it is the same as the locality given in the heading, (c) deposit, (d) last date for application, (e) last date and time for submission of tenders. Full details of contracts marked ★ are given in the advertisement section.

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CUCKFIELD R.C. (a) (Contract No. 89) 12 dwellings, Clappers Lane, Fulking. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Bolto Road, Haywards Heath. (c) 2gns. (e) Jan. 19.

CUMBERLAND C.C. (a) (1) nurses' home with surgery, waiting space, etc., at Frizington; (2) 1 house at Nether Welton Smallholding, near Dalston; and (3) sanitary improvements at Kirkoswald School. (b) County Architect, 15, Portland Square, Carlisle. (e) (1) and (2) Jan. 8; (3) Jan. 19.

DENTON U.C. (a) 8 flats at Haughton Hall No. 1 site (Scheme No. 6) and 2 houses at Haughton Hall No. 2 site (Scheme No. 8). (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall. (c) 2gns. (e) Jan. 6.

DEPWADE R.C. (a) 6 bungalows at Bunwell, 4 at Denton, 4 at Dickleburgh, 6 at Hemphall, 4 at Morningthorpe (Fritton), 6 at Wortwell, 8 at Pulham St. Mary, 4 bungalows and 2 houses at Roydon, 6 bungalows at Scole, 4 at Tivetshall St. Margaret. (b) Messrs. A. F. Scott and Sons, 23, Tombland, Norwich. (c) £3 cheque. (e) Jan. 2.

EIRE—COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS. (a) National school at Mount Sackville, Dublin. (b) Secretary, Office of Public Works, Dublin. (c) £1. (e) Jan. 9.

EIRE—COUNTY WICKLOW VOCATIONAL E.C. (a) Technical school at Wicklow. (b) Mr. P. Mulcahy, 62, Adelaide Road, Dublin. (c) 10gns. (e) Jan. 8.

ELY R.C. (a) 14 houses, Steward Close, Stuntney. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Lynn Road. (c) Ign. (e) Jan. 17.

EVESHAM B.C. (a) Shops on the Fairfield Estate. (b) Town Clerk, Municipal Offices.

HALESOWEN B.C. (a) 48 houses comprising Group A 28 houses and Group B 20 houses, Howley Grange Estate, Lapal. (b) Mr. J. C. T. Cole, Central Buildings, Long Lane, Blackheath, near Birmingham; immediately stating whether for a group or the whole scheme. (c) 2gns.

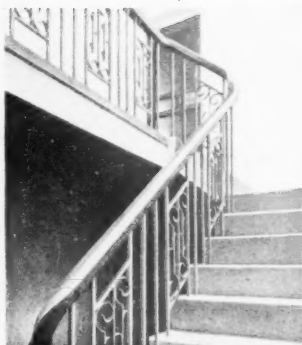
HARTLEY WINTNEY R.C. (a) (1) 14 dwellings at Rye Common, Dogmersfield, and (2) 12 dwellings at Hitches Lane, Crookham Street. (b) Council's Clerk, Council Offices, stating contract. (d) Dec. 31.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD R.C. (a) 6 houses at Flaunden. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, No. 2, Marlowes. (c) 2gns. (e) Jan. 5.

HOVE B.C. (a) (Group H.10) 8 houses, 34 flats; (Group H.11) 12 houses, 36 flats; (Group H.12) 40 flats, Hangleton Park Estate. (b) Borough Surveyor, Town Hall. (c) 3gns. each contract. (d) Dec. 22. (e) Jan. 19.

IPSWICH C.C. (a) Rest room at Whitton Open Air School. (b) Messrs. Johns and Slater, 32, Foundation Street. (c) 2gns. (d) Dec. 22. (e) Jan. 6.

LINCOLN C.C. (a) (1) House and infilling of preconstructed concrete frames for farm buildings at Morton, Holding No. 161; (2) house and infilling of preconstructed concrete frames for farm buildings at Heckington, Holding No. 320; (3) infilling of preconstructed frames

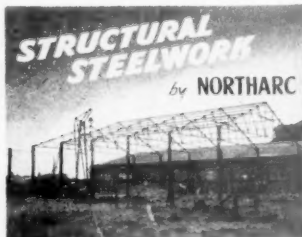


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for part set of farm buildings and erection of part set of farm buildings at Heckington, Holding No. 321. (b) County Land Agent, County Offices, Seaford. (e) Dec. 29.

LONDON—WEST HAM B.C. (a) (Contract 188) Extensions to "West Ham Lodge," Avenue Road, Harold Wood, Essex. (b) Borough Architect, 70, West Ham Lane, Straford, E.15. (c) 2gns. (d) Dec. 22.

MANCHESTER C.C. (a) (1) Moss Nook secondary school, Wythenshawe, and (2) Oldwood secondary school, Wythenshawe. (b) City Architect, Town Hall. (c) Ign. each. (e) Jan. 2.

N. IRELAND—NEWRY NOS. 1 & 2 RURAL COUNCILS & ARMAH COUNTY HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEES. (a) Council and health offices at Edward Street, Newry. (b) Mr. W. H. McEvoy, 73, May Street, Belfast. (c) 3gns. (e) Jan. 28.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE C.C. (a) Addition to the cloakroom and assembly hall at Sconce Hills Secondary School, Newark. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Trent Bridge. (c) 2gns. (d) Dec. 20.

OLDHAM B.C. (a) 103 houses, Holts Estate. (b) Messrs. Cameron and Middleton, 21, Queen Street. (c) 2gns. (e) Jan. 3.

PENZANCE B.C. (a) (Contract 60a) block of 4 flats; (Contract 60b) 1 lock-up shop and (Contract 60c) approach road. (b) Borough Surveyor, Municipal Buildings; stating contract or contracts. (c) Ign. (e) Jan. 10.

PORTSMOUTH C.C. (a) (1) 63 flats at Northern Parade. (2) 156 flats in 2 contracts at Eastern Road and (3) 128 houses at Leigh Park. (b) City Architect, Municipal Offices, 1, Western Parade, Southsea. (c) 3gns. (d) Jan. 2.

REIGATE B.C. (a) 53 houses, etc., Green Lane Estate, Redhill. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 4gns. (e) Jan. 2.

RUSHDEN U.C. (a) 4 flats in Blinco Road. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Buildings. (e) Jan. 19.

SALOP C.C. (a) Secondary school at Wrockwardine Wood, near Wellington. (b) County Architect, Column House, London Road, Shrewsbury; with details of skilled labour and plant, contracts carried out and names of architects concerned. (d) Dec. 31.

SCOTLAND—SUTHERLAND C.C. (a) 4 houses at Scourie; 4 at Durness; 4 at Bettyhill; 4 at Tongue; 4 at Helvich; 4 at Laig and 6 at Rogart (all or separate trades). (b) Mr. E. W. Brannen, Carnegie Buildings, Dornoch. (c) Dec. 27.

SMETHWICK B.C. (a) 202 houses at Oldbury. (b) Borough Engineer, Council House. (c) 2gns crossed cheque payable to Borough Treasurer. (e) Jan. 12.

SOUTH SHIELDS B.C. (a) 15 flats at Lawe Road. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 2gns. (e) Jan. 13.

TADCASTER R.C. (a) 10 houses at Great Preston. (b) Messrs. Anthony Steel and Owen, 89, Albion Street, Leeds, 1. (c) 2gns cheque payable to Council. (e) Jan. 10.

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FLAGSTAFFS

WANTAGE (BERKS) R.C. (a) Adaptation of former hostel at Challow Road, East Challow, into 7 units of housing accommodation. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Belmont. (c) 1gn. (e) Dec. 27.

WEST RIDING C.C. (a) Kitchen and dining room at Spenborough South Parade Modern School. (b) County Architect, "Bishopgarth," Westfield Road, Wakefield. (c) 2gns. (e) Jan. 12.

WETHERBY R.C. (a) 14 houses adjacent to the railway at Spofforth. (b) Messrs. Anthony Steel and Owen, 89, Albion Street, Leeds, 1. (c) Dec. 29.

WIRRAL U.C. (a) 8 houses and 12 garages, Oaklea Estate, Irby, Wirral. (b) Council's Clerk, Council Offices, Heswall, Wirral. (c) 5gns. (e) Dec. 29.

YORK C.C. (a) Restoration of the partially demolished 15th Century Guildhall. (b) City Architect, 8, St. Leonard's Place. (d) Jan. 23.

MISCELLANEOUS

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LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL. (1) Erection of Prendergast School. (2) Lewisham. (3) Thomas and Edge, Ltd., Woolwich, S.E.18. (4) £243,019.

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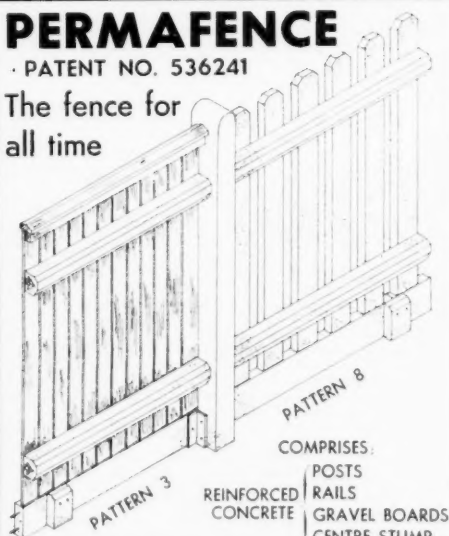
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Care still needed

All this is good news; but care is still needed. If the coming winter is a hard one—unlike last year's mild winter—there is still a danger of overloading the available plant, with resulting inconvenience and loss of production in the factories. That is why the general public are still being asked to co-operate by going easy with their electricity in the early mornings and late afternoon, particularly on cold days.

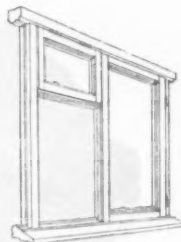
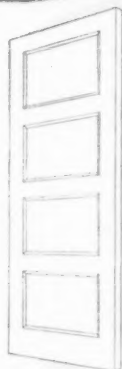
To reduce yet further the risk of interruption, Industry is asked to ensure that it makes the most efficient use of power. If all play their part, both in industry and in their homes, the nation can benefit by all the advantages of increased production and improved amenities that the electrical age has in store.

*For more production—
Use power WISELY!*



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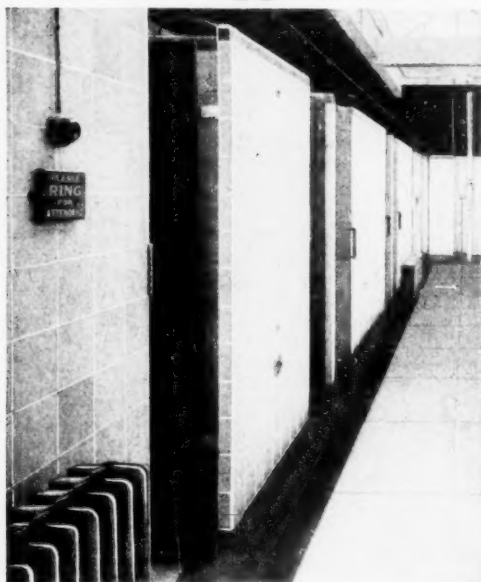
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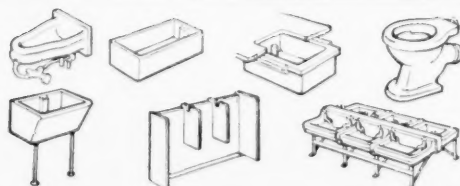
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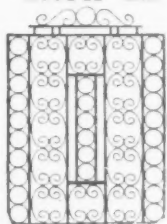
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TEIGNMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ENGINEER & SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT (TEMPORARY).

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of a TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT in the Engineer & Surveyor's Department at a salary in accordance with A.P.T. Grade V (£595 to £645 per annum).

Applicants should have a good general experience, especially with regard to housing and public buildings, and previous service with a local authority is desirable, and should be Associate Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The appointment is subject to the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and the passing of a medical examination, and may be terminated by one month's notice on either side.

Applicants, stating age, qualifications, present and past employment and experience, together with the names of three persons to whom reference can be made, should be sent to the undersigned so as to reach him not later than January 1, 1953.

Canvassing in any form will be a disqualification and applicants must disclose any known relationship to any member or officer of the Council.

T. W. LEE EDWARDS,

Clerk of the Council.

Council Offices,
Bilton House,
Teignmouth
December 5, 1952.

[6826]

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST HAM.

BOROUGH ARCHITECT AND PLANNING OFFICER'S DEPARTMENT

APPLICATIONS are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following posts on the permanent establishment of the Department in connection with the reconstruction programme of the County Borough.

- (a) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT—APT. GRADE VI £670 × £20 × £20 × £25—£735.
- (b) ASSISTANT PLANNING—APT. GRADE VI £670 × £20 × £20 × £25—£735.
- (c) ASSISTANT PLANNING—APT. GRADE VI £670 × £20 × £20 × £25—£735.
- (d) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT—APT. GRADE I-III £465 × £15—£510; £495 × £15—£540; £525 × £15—£570.

Applicants for post (a) should be A.R.I.B.A. or Registered Architects and have had experience in Housing works and be able to supervise Contracts.

Applicants for post (b) should be A.M.T.P.I. with experience in administrative problems and development control arising in the reconstruction of war damaged areas.

Applicants for post (c) should be Architect Planner and suitably qualified, and will be required to deal with the layouts for areas of Comprehensive Development.

Applicants for post (d) should have had at least three years' practical experience as an Architect's office, and preference will be given to candidates who have passed the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A.

(London Allowance payable in addition to salary.) Application forms (returnable by 9th January, 1953) to be obtained from the Borough Architect and Planning Officer, THOMAS E. NORTH, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., Dist. T.P., 70, West Ham Lane, Stratford, E.15.

G. E. SMITH,

Town Clerk.

West Ham Town Hall,
Stratford, E.15.

[6835]

APPOINTMENTS—contd.

SALOP COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT—A.P.T. GRADE VIII.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of a SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT on A.P.T. GRADE VIII (£760 to £835 per annum).

Applicants should be Registered Architects, preferably Members of the R.I.B.A., and must have had experience in the design of public buildings.

The appointment will be subject for its termination to two calendar months' notice in writing on either side.

A separation allowance of not exceeding 30/- a week will be paid to a married officer taking up this appointment, together with third-class return railway fare once a month to visit his family, such allowances to be limited to a period of six months or until such time as the officer is able to obtain accommodation for himself and his family in Shropshire, whichever is the earlier.

Application forms may be obtained from the COUNTY ARCHITECT, C. H. SIMMONS, A.R.I.B.A., Dip.T.P., COLUMB HOUSE, LONDON ROAD, SHREWSBURY, to whom they must be returned, accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, not later than Wednesday, 7th January, 1953.

G. C. GODBER,
Clerk of the Council.

Shrewsbury,
December, 1952.

[6836]

CITY OF MANCHESTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REGIONAL COLLEGE OF ART, MANCHESTER.

APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL.

APPLICATIONS are invited from persons with high qualifications in art for the post of PRINCIPAL which will become vacant in September, 1953. Candidates should have had wide experience in art education and should be able to relate their knowledge to the needs of industry.

Salary in accordance with the provisions of the Burnham Further Education Report, 1951, at present £1,440 × £40—£1,640.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained (stamped, addressed foolscap envelope) from the Chief Education Officer, Education Officers, Deansgate, Manchester, 1, to whom completed applications should be returned by January 10, 1953.

[6825]

EAST GRINSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT—HOUSING

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment within the Capital Works section of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department, at a salary within Grade A.P.T. III—£525—£570 p.a. (commencing point within the Grade being fixed in relation to the experience and/or qualifications of the successful candidate).

Candidates must be experienced in the preparation of plans and specifications in connection with the design of Council houses including estate layouts, and it will be considered an advantage if candidates hold the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A. or R.I.C.S.

The appointment is subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and to the terms of the National Joint Council's Scheme of Conditions of Service, and terminable by one month's notice in writing on either side.

Applicants stating age, qualifications, present and previous appointments and experience, together with copies of three testimonials, must reach the undersigned endorsed—"Technical Assistant—Housing"—by not later than noon on Saturday, 10th January, 1953.

Housing accommodation will be made available if required.

L. R. BENNETT,
Clerk of the Council.

Council Offices,
East Court,
East Grinstead,
Sussex.

[6837]

APPOINTMENTS—contd.

BRACKNELL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (BRACKNELL, BERKS).

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments:—

1. SENIOR ARCHITECT. Salary £985—£1,050—£1,100.
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3. ARCHITECT. Salary £635 × £40—£835.
4. JUNIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. Salary £505 × £20—£605.
5. TWO QUANTITY SURVEYORS. Salary £635 × £40—£835.
6. THREE JUNIOR ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYORS. Salary £505 × £20—£605.
7. DRAUGHTSMAN. Salary £310—£460.

Posts 1, 2 and 3. Applicants should be corporate members of the R.I.B.A. with, for Post 3, considerable experience in the design and supervision of large housing contracts and for Posts 2 and 3 good general experience in commercial and industrial building.

Post 4. Applicants should be at least Students R.I.B.A. and have good general experience.

Post 5. Applicants should be corporate members of the R.I.C.S. and experienced in taking off for various types of building contracts.

Post 6. Applicants should have passed the intermediate examination of the R.I.C.S. and must be experienced in abstracting and billing for all classes of buildings.

The posts will be supernumerary under the Local Government Superannuation Act 1937, and the successful candidates will be required to pass a medical examination.

The Corporation cannot at present offer housing accommodation but in approved cases subsistence allowance may be paid to married men until accommodation has been obtained locally, for a maximum period of six months.

Candidates are required to state if they are, to their knowledge, related to any member of the Corporation or Staff. Successful applicants will work under the direction of E. A. Ferriby, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., Chief Architect to the Corporation.

Applications, giving full particulars of the candidate's age, qualifications and experience, together with the names of three persons to whom reference can be made, must reach the General Manager, Bracknell Development Corporation, Farley Hall, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks, on or before 23rd December, 1952, in envelopes suitably endorsed to indicate the post to which the application refers.

[6818]

CONTRACTS

BOROUGH OF AYLESBURY.

ERECTION OF 120 FLATS, BUCKINGHAM ROAD.

TENDERS are invited for the ERECTION of 120 FLATS in 30 blocks of four flats each, on the Council's Housing Estate at BUCKINGHAM ROAD. The numbers and type of flat to be erected are as follows:—

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- N 2 two Blocks.
- N 2 A six Blocks.
- S 1 nine Blocks.
- N 2 nine Blocks.

The plans and General Conditions of Contract can be inspected at the Borough Engineer's Office, Town Hall, Aylesbury, from whom the Bills of Quantities and Forms of Tender can be obtained on payment of a deposit of £2 2s, payable in respect of each Tender to the Aylesbury Corporation, such deposit to be returned on receipt of a bona-fide Tender.

Tenders in sealed envelope, and Bills of Quantities endorsed "120 Flats, Buckingham Road," must be delivered to the undersigned not later than first post, 8th January, 1953.

H. CROOKES,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,
Aylesbury,
December, 1952.

[6838]

MISCELLANEOUS SECTION

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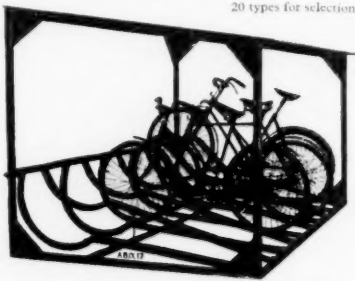
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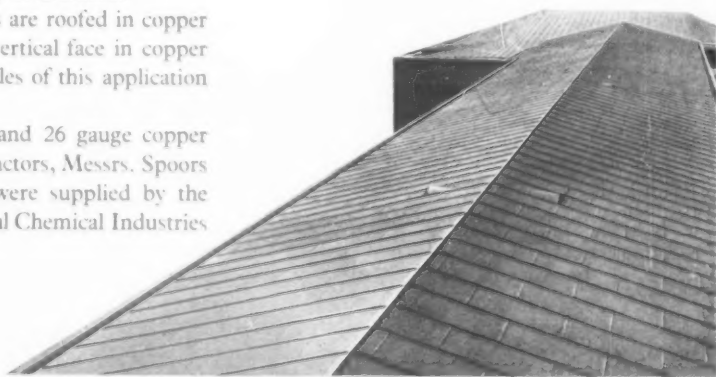
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